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Migrants live in fear at Mexico-U.S. border as violence flares

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A Salvadoran woman seeking asylum in the United States spends her days holed up in her cousin's cramped slum house just across the border in Mexico — too scared to leave after receiving a savage beating from two men three weeks ago while she was strolling home from a convenience store.

The assault came after she spent four months in captivity in Mexico, kidnapped into prostitution during her journey toward the U.S.

The woman, 31, is among 55,000 migrants who have been returned to Mexico by the Trump administration to wait for their cases to wind through backlogged immigration courts. Her situation offers a glimpse into some of the program's problems.

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In this Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, photo, Lizbeth poses for a portrait in a relative's home behind a page from her court documents in Tijuana, Mexico.

Associated Press



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Migrants live in fear at Mexico-U.S. border as violence flares

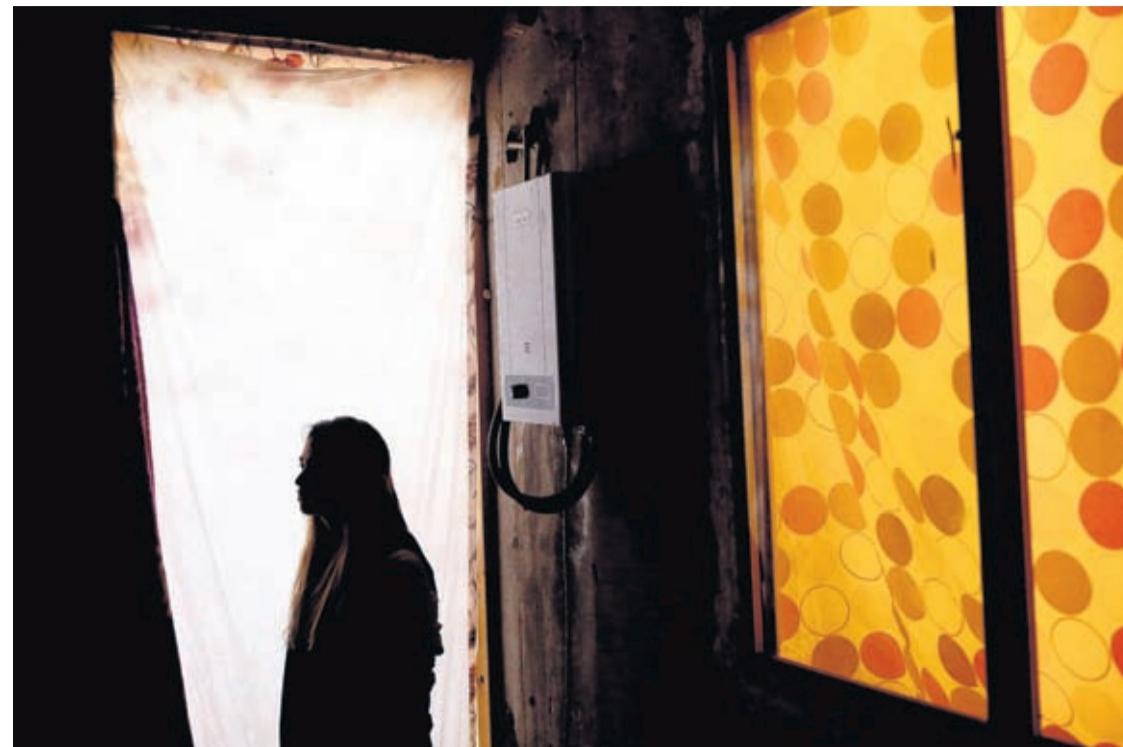
Continued from Front

Critics have said the administration's policy denies asylum seekers like the Salvadoran woman fair and humane treatment, forcing them to wait in a country plagued by drug-fueled violence — illustrated this week by the slaughter near the U.S. border of six children and three women. All were U.S. citizens living in Mexico.

The Trump administration insists that the program is a safe alternative in collaboration with the government of Mexico, even as the president vows to wage war on drug cartels that are a dominant presence in the dangerous border cities where migrants are forced to wait.

The Department of Homeland Security added in a report last week that the program is "an indispensable tool in addressing the ongoing crisis at the southern border and restoring integrity to the immigration system."

The woman said in an interview that she fled Santa Ana, El Salvador, on Jan. 31



In this Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, photo, Lizbeth poses for a portrait in a relative's home in Tijuana, Mexico.

after days on the run from a police officer who demanded sexual acts.

She never said goodbye to her five children — ages 5 to 12 — fearing the officer would discover where they lived. The Associated Press granted her anonymity because she fears for her safety if her identity is revealed.

She said she was kidnapped after leaving a Mexican government office on its southern border with Guatemala after inquiring about getting asylum in Mexico.

She and others were taken in a minivan to Ciudad Juarez, on Mexico's border with Texas. Captors in a large room argued over

Associated Press

who would take possession of the men, women and children gathered there. One wanted to extort money from Lizeth's family. A second wanted to force her into prostitution and she ended up with him before her escape this summer to the home of a stranger who paid for her bus ticket to her cousin who lives across the border from San Diego.

She said she shared her story with U.S. authorities after she walked across the border illegally alone on Sept. 18 where the wall ends in Tijuana, Mexico, and waited for an agent to arrest her. They rejected her pleas that it was too dangerous for her to return to Mexico to wait for a date in U.S. immigration court for a judge to hear her case.

Then, on Oct. 14., she said she was punched and whipped with a belt by assailants near her cousin's home in a hillside neighborhood of dirt and concrete roads and empty, half-built homes occupied by drug addicts and squatters.

She still had bruises as her case was heard last week in San Diego, when immigration Judge Lee O'Connor made no secret of his disdain for the policy of keeping asylum seekers waiting in Mexico.

The scene in the courtroom was chaotic, with the infant

child of a Honduran woman whimpering and then bellowing as O'Connor entered. "Silence in the courtroom!" he barked. A guard escorted the child and his mother to the hallway.

The judge questioned the two attorneys representing asylum seekers about how long it took them to visit clients in Mexico, noting infamously long waits to cross the border. "Hours," the judge marveled.

But the judge ruled the Salvadoran woman and the Honduran family were ineligible for the program because, in his view, the law governing asylum seekers only allows it for people who present themselves at official border crossings — not for immigrants like her who entered illegally.

Customs and Border Protection officials then sent the woman back to Mexico with a notice telling her she had another court date set for Dec. 16, even though her case had been terminated.

The woman's lawyer, Siobhan Waldron, accused Customs and Border Protection of making up the Dec. 16 court date to get the woman out of the U.S. and back to Mexico. Waldron said she does not know what will come next for her client.

Customs and Border Protection did not provide answers to emailed questions about the woman's case. But Kathryn Mattingly, a spokeswoman for the Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review, confirmed Wednesday that the Salvadoran woman no future court dates set.

For now, the Salvadoran woman sleeps on a foam mattress in a sparsely furnished one-bedroom home of concrete slabs and plywood walls — still scared to leave.

She claimed that U.S. authorities told her while she was in custody that efforts to remain in the U.S. were futile.

"There's nothing you can do," she said she was told by one official. "This is not your country." □

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State Dept. undersecretary testifies in impeachment inquiry

By MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department's third-ranking official testified Wednesday for more than six hours in the House Democrats' impeachment inquiry as they investigate President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine.

David Hale had been expected to tell lawmakers that political considerations were behind the agency's refusal to deliver a robust defense of the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine.

People familiar with the matter said Hale, the highest-ranking career diplomat in the foreign service, planned to say Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other senior officials determined that publicly defending ousted Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch would hurt the effort to free up U.S. military assistance to Ukraine.

Hale also planned to say that the State Department worried about the reaction from Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, who was one of the strongest advocates for removing the ambassador, according to the people, who were not authorized to publicly discuss Hale's appearance and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hale's testimony came as the committees leading the impeachment investigation began to wrap up their closed-door interviews in the probe. The panels this week also are releasing transcripts from previous interviews, in which lawmakers scrutinized Trump's appeals to new Ukrainian President Volodymir Zelenskiy to investigate political rival Joe Biden and the actions of Democrats during the 2016 U.S. election.



David Hale, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019, to be interviewed for the impeachment inquiry.

Associated Press

Impeachment investigators had scheduled interviews with 13 witnesses this week, but Hale was the first to show up. A series of White House witnesses have declined to testify, even under subpoena, after Trump directed them to stay away. Yovanovitch has already appeared before investigators in the impeachment inquiry into Trump. According to a transcript of her interview released this week, she detailed efforts by Giuliani and other Trump allies to push her out of Ukraine, testifying that a senior Ukrainian official told her that "I really needed to watch my back."

She also testified that she asked Hale to get Pompeo to issue a statement defending her, but that statement never came. She said Hale asked her to send him a "classified email" with her "understanding of what was going on," which she said she did.

Hale was expected to shed more light on why the de-

partment did not step up to defend its top envoy in Kyiv. According to the people familiar with the matter, he was expected to say he tried to distance himself and the department by removing himself from email chains about Yovanovitch. Hale, for example, never responded to an email sent by former top Pompeo adviser Michael McKinley urging Pompeo to speak out in defense of Yovanovitch after the White House released a rough transcript of Trump's phone call with Zelenskiy, the officials said. One official said Hale had "tried to take himself out of the loop on Ukraine." But another official said Hale would defend Pompeo's actions as "politically smart" for the department and its employees in the long run. Hale, a fluent Arabic speaker who joined the foreign service in 1984, has served as ambassador to Lebanon, Pakistan and Jordan and in posts in Tunisia, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

the hold-up in military assistance for Ukraine and Trump's push for the country to open investigations. Gordon Sondland, Trump's ambassador to the European Union, said in an addendum to his testimony released Tuesday that military assistance to the East European ally was being withheld until Ukraine's new president agreed to release a statement about fighting corruption as Trump wanted.

Also scheduled to testify Wednesday was State Department Counselor T. Ulrich Brechbuhl, an adviser to Pompeo and close friend of the secretary. But Brechbuhl did not appear, instead departing with Pompeo on a trip to Germany early Wednesday morning.

Two more witnesses who were scheduled for Wednesday — Russ Vought, the acting director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, and Rick Perry, the Energy secretary — did not show up. Both have strongly criticized the probe. □

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Blade of glory: The mystery around a late president's sword

By DAN SEWELL

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — An Ohio sheriff wearing white gloves displayed a sword wielded in the American Revolution and by a future U.S. president in the War of 1812, and pledged Wednesday an exhaustive investigation to determine whether it's the one that disappeared from Cincinnati four decades ago.

It's believed the sword Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil held up was carried in battle by President William Henry Harrison and before him, Continental Army Col. John Cleves Symmes, Harrison's future father-in-law.

Police in Connecticut seized the sword last month, just before it was to be auctioned.

Members of the Harrison-Symmes Memorial Foundation, some 15 miles (24 kilometers) west of Cincinnati, are confident it is a historical sword that disappeared 40 years ago from the Cincinnati Historical Society. But would-be seller James Kochan, of Wiscasset, Maine, said he thinks the missing Cincinnati sword was a copy.

Neil agreed with the foundation members that the probability is high the sword he held is the real deal, and belongs back in Cincinnati. But he said his detectives, probate court investigators, the county coroner's analysts and historians will study documents, photos, old letters and do interviews to verify that in what's expected to be a lengthy effort.

"I still have a responsibil-



A sword, wielded in the American Revolution and the War of 1812, is handled by Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil during a news conference to update the investigation into its ownership, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019, in Cincinnati.

ity as a peace officer ... to make sure this is in fact the sword in question that was stolen from the Cincinnati Historical Society 40 years ago," Neil said.

But Kochan says he still believes he has rights to the weapon.

"The fact is, nothing has been established yet," Kochan said by phone. "I have legal title to the sword they have."

Kochan said he is veteran historian, curator and collector who bought the sword in 2015 from a collection being sold by Christie's auction house in New York.

He was offering it Oct. 19 as part of an auction of artifacts from the American Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Napoleonic Wars. He said the sale would

benefit his Mars & Neptune Trust, dedicated to the preservation of American military and naval history, sites and artifacts from before 1850.

However, Dave Sunberg, a Roman Catholic priest and a member of the Harrison-Symmes foundation who searches for memorabilia to add to its museum, spotted the sword online the day before the auction and emailed another foundation member.

Soon, word spread that they had apparently found the sword they believed had been stolen in Cincinnati some 40 years ago.

Windsor, Connecticut, police officers showed up at the auction house less than two hours before the sword was to go up for auction. Kochan said he had told

the Harrison-Symmes foundation his sword was authentic and his to sell. He reluctantly turned it over to police.

It's now in custody in Hamilton County, where the Harrison-Symmes foundation historians say the Symmes family donated it to Hamilton County Probate Court in 1922. Documents show the court loaned the sword to the Cincinnati Historical Society, which used it in a 1976 Bicentennial display.

Sometime within the next few years, it disappeared from storage in a Cincinnati museum.

The Harrison-Symmes foundation said the historical society didn't publicize the alleged theft, and they became aware when they asked for it to display for a 1993 celebration of the

Associated Press

175th anniversary of the founding of the Village of Cleves, part of the large swath of land where John Cleves Symmes was a pioneering landowner.

"So we have been looking for the sword since 1993 and we think we've found it," said Bev Meyers, the foundation's president.

Like the missing sword, Cincinnati authorities say this one was made by Jacob Hurd around 1776 and is inscribed with the names of six Symmes family members and Harrison. Kochan said a modern jeweler could engrave the names on another sword.

Hamilton County Probate Judge Ted Winkler, who said the sword should be on public display as part of local history, said Kochan's suggestion is "not a very strong argument in my opinion."

Police said Kochan, a Miami University alumnus, has been cooperative and seems genuinely surprised by the claims about the sword. He said Wednesday he's "looking into my options" to regain the sword.

It seems likely the investigation will last longer than Harrison's presidency. The ninth president developed pneumonia and died on his 32nd day in office. □

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US: Saudis recruited Twitter workers to spy on users

By DAISY NGUYEN

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The Saudi government recruited two Twitter employees to get personal account information of their critics, prosecutors said Wednesday.

A complaint unsealed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco detailed a coordinated effort by Saudi government officials to recruit employees at the social media giant to look up the private data of thousands of Twitter accounts. The accounts included those of a popular critic of the government with more than 1 million followers and a news personality.

It also alleged that the employees — whose jobs did not require access to Twitter users' private information — were rewarded with a designer watch and tens of thousands of dollars funneled into secret bank accounts. They were charged with acting as agents of Saudi Arabia without registering with the U.S. government.

The Saudi government had no immediate comment through its embassy in Washington.

Twitter acknowledged that



This July 9, 2019, file photo shows pedestrians walking across the street from the Twitter office building in San Francisco. The Saudi government recruited two Twitter employees to get personal account information of their critics, prosecutors said Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

it cooperated in the investigation and said in a statement that it restricts access to sensitive account information "to a limited group of trained and vetted employees."

"We understand the incredible risks faced by many who use Twitter to share their perspectives with the world and to hold those in power accountable," the statement said. "We have

tools in place to protect their privacy and their ability to do their vital work."

Ahmad Abouammo, who left his job as the media partnership manager for Twitter's Middle East region in 2015, was also charged with falsifying documents and making false statements to obstruct FBI investigators — offenses that carry a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison if con-

victed.

At his appearance in Seattle federal court Wednesday, Abouammo was ordered to remain in custody pending a detention hearing set for Friday.

His lawyer, Christopher Black, declined to comment, as did Abouammo's wife, who did not give her name.

Investigators alleged that a Saudi citizen working as

a social media adviser for the Saudi royal family recruited Twitter engineer Ali Alzabarrah. The two met in Washington, D.C., around the same time the adviser, Ahmed Almutairi, met with someone named in the complaint as Royal Family Member 1.

"Within one week of returning to San Francisco, Alzabarrah began to access without authorization private data of Twitter users en masse," the complaint said.

The effort included the user data of over 6,000 Twitter users, including at least 33 usernames for which Saudi Arabian law enforcement had submitted emergency disclosure requests to Twitter, investigators said.

After being confronted by his supervisors at Twitter, Alzabarrah acknowledged accessing user data and said he did it out of curiosity, authorities said.

Alzabarrah was placed on administrative leave, his work-owned laptop was seized, and he was escorted out of the office. The next day, he flew to Saudi Arabia with his wife and daughter and has not returned to the United States, investigators said. □



In this June 19, 2019 file photo, a dog taken from a property in Klingerstown, Pa., looks out from its cage during an animal cruelty investigation.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Congress has passed a bill making certain types of animal cruelty a federal felony.

The bill would expand a 2010 law that made creation or distribution of so-called "animal crushing"

videos illegal. The new bill would make the underlying acts of cruelty a federal crime.

The Senate unanimously passed the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act on Tuesday, two weeks after the House passed it on a voice vote.

Congress approves bill expanding animal cruelty law

Florida Reps. Ted Deutch and Vern Buchanan sponsored the bill. Deutch, a Democrat, said it "sends a clear message that our society does not accept cruelty against animals" and noted that the bill was received overwhelming support from both parties.

Buchanan, a Republican, said "the torture of innocent animals is abhorrent and should be punished to the fullest extent of the law." The bill now goes to President Donald Trump. Holly Gann, director of federal affairs at the advocacy group Animal Wellness Action, said the measure was long overdue. "We as a nation should have no tolerance for ani-

mal abuse, and the PACT Act will allow federal authorities to stop heinous crimes when they occur on the federal level," Gann said in a statement.

Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., who shepherded the bill with Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., called it a major victory to stop animal cruelty and make communities safer.

"Evidence shows that the deranged individuals who harm animals often move on to committing acts of violence against people. It is appropriate that the federal government have strong animal cruelty laws and penalties," Toomey said in a statement.

"There's no place in a civi-

lized society for maiming and torturing animals — period," Blumenthal added.

The PACT Act would prohibit extreme acts of cruelty when they occur in interstate commerce or on federal property and cracks down on sexual abuse of animals. While current federal law bans the sale or distribution of videos showing animals being crushed, burned or tortured, it does not prohibit the underlying conduct. Law enforcement agencies including the National Sheriffs' Association and Fraternal Order of Police endorsed the bill, citing a well-documented connection between animal cruelty and violence against people. □

Prosecutors charge man with hate crime in acid attack

By IVAN MORENO

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A 61-year-old white Milwaukee man accused of throwing acid on a Hispanic man's face will be charged with a hate crime, increasing the possible sentence he may receive if convicted, prosecutors announced Wednesday.

Prosecutors filed one charge against Clifton Blackwell — first-degree reckless injury — but added the sentencing enhancers of hate crime and use of a dangerous weapon. The two enhancers could add 10 years in prison if he's convicted of first-degree reckless injury, which is punishable by up to 25 years.

The victim, Mahud Villalaz, 42, said his attacker approached him near a restaurant Friday night and confronted him about being parked too close to a bus stop, according to charging documents. Prosecutors said Blackwell then asked, "Why did you invade my country?" and "Why don't you respect my laws?"

Villalaz said he moved his car but that Blackwell continued to berate him, calling him "illegal" and telling him to "go back, go back," followed by an expletive. Villalaz said he called Blackwell a racist, also using an expletive. Villalaz said Blackwell threw the acid on him after Villalaz said "everyone come from somewhere first" and that American Indians had been in the country the longest.

Surveillance video from the restaurant recorded the attack, which left Villalaz with second-degree burns on his face.

Villalaz is a U.S. citizen who immigrated from Peru.

The attack on Villalaz comes at a time when the Anti-Defamation League says extreme anti-immigrant views have become part of the political mainstream in recent years through sharp rhetoric by anti-immigration groups and politicians, including



This undated photo provided by the Milwaukee County Jail shows Clifton Blackwell.

Associated Press

President Donald Trump. White House spokesman Judd Deere said Monday that the Trump administration has repeatedly condemned racism and violence.

Investigators who searched Blackwell's home found among other things four bottles of sulfuric acid, muriatic acid, and two bottles of Kleen-Out drain opener that was 100% lye, according to the search warrant.

Before filing the charge, Milwaukee District Attorney John Chisholm said during an interview with Wisconsin Public Radio that his office was looking to determine whether the attack was motivated "in whole or in part" based on the victim's race. He said prosecutors would look "very closely first at the underlying offenses and then we'll make a determination whether the facts support the hate crime."

"But it's obviously a concern

to many people not just in this community but really around the country right now," he said.

Blackwell does not yet have an attorney, according to court records.

Blackwell's family said he's a military veteran who came to Milwaukee to seek help for an undetermined medical issue. His mother, Jacqueline P. Blackwell, of California, told the Journal Sentinel he had sought care with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Milwaukee for post-traumatic stress.

"I was comfortable that he was getting good care with the VA," she told the newspaper.

His brother, Arthur Eugene Blackwell of Evergreen, Colorado, told the AP that Clifton served nearly four years in the U.S. Marines and was stationed at the Panama Canal around the time Manuel Noriega was captured and removed in

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Johnson tries to shake off rocky start as UK election begins

By JILL LAWLESS

DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Boris Johnson told British voters on Wednesday that they have to back his Conservatives if they want an end to Brexit delays, as he tried to shake off a rocky start to the governing party's election campaign.

Speaking outside his No. 10 Downing St. office on the first official day of Britain's five-week campaign, Johnson said the political impasse over Britain's departure from the European Union made him want to "chew my own tie in frustration." "I don't want an early election, and no one much wants to have an election in December, but we have got to the stage where we have no choice," he said.

Johnson, trying to set the stage for a people-versus-Parliament campaign, said lawmakers were "refusing time and again to deliver Brexit and honor the result of the referendum."

In fact, lawmakers approved Johnson's EU divorce deal in principle last month, but asked for more time to scrutinize it. Johnson then withdrew the bill and pushed for an early election instead.

Johnson also slammed his main rival, left-wing Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, comparing him to former Soviet dictator Josef Stalin and — erroneously — claiming he had sided with Russian President Vladimir Putin over a nerve-agent



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks in Downing Street, London, on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019, ahead of the formal start of the General Election. Britain's five-week election campaign officially began Wednesday, when Parliament was dissolved ahead of the Dec. 12 vote.

Associated Press

attack on British soil. All 650 seats in the House of Commons are up for grabs in the Dec. 12 election, which is coming more than two years early. Some 46 million British voters are eligible to take part in the country's first December election in 96 years.

Johnson urged voters to deliver a Conservative majority so Britain could "put uncertainty behind us." With that support, Johnson vowed he would get Parliament to ratify his Brexit deal and the country would leave the EU as scheduled on Jan. 31.

Brexit was supposed to happen on Oct. 31, but with Britain's politicians dead-

locked, the bloc granted the U.K. a three-month delay.

While unofficial campaigning has been ramping up for weeks, the campaign formally began when Parliament was dissolved Wednesday. Johnson went to Buckingham Palace to notify Queen Elizabeth II of that and was heading off to his first campaign rally, an evening event in central England.

The Conservative campaign has had a bumpy start. Just minutes before Johnson spoke Wednesday, Cabinet Minister Alun Cairns resigned over allegations about a former aide's role in a rape trial.

Cairns said he was quitting as Welsh secretary because of "speculation" surrounding the "very sensitive matter," which is under investigation. He said he was confident he would be cleared of wrongdoing.

Cairns denies allegations that he knew his former staffer Ross England made claims about a victim's sexual history when he was a witness in a 2018 rape trial. That is not allowed, and the trial collapsed. The judge accused England of deliberately sabotaging the trial. Cairns later endorsed England as a candidate for an upcoming Welsh Assembly election.

On Tuesday, another Con-

servative, outgoing House of Commons leader Jacob Rees-Mogg, was forced to apologize for suggesting that the victims of a 2017 London apartment block inferno that killed 72 people lacked common sense for following fire department advice to wait in their apartments for help.

The comments drew sharp rebukes from opposition politicians — and from rap star Stormzy, who urged the Conservative lawmaker to resign and tweeted: "These politicians are actual aliens."

The Conservatives were also criticized for posting a doctored video of a senior Labour figure on Twitter that appeared to show him failing to answer a question, when in fact he did.

Conservative Party chair James Cleverly claimed Wednesday the ad was just "a lighthearted satirical video." In another over-the-top political insult, Johnson used a column in the Daily Telegraph to accuse the Labour Party under Corbyn of attacking the rich "with a relish and vindictiveness not seen since Stalin persecuted the kulaks," the wealthier peasants targeted by the Soviet regime in the 1930s.

In his Downing Street speech, Johnson also claimed inaccurately that Corbyn had "sided with Putin" after a former Russian spy and his daughter were attacked with a nerve agent in the English city of Salisbury. □

Extreme right Golden Dawn party leader testifies in court



Head of Greece's extreme far-right Golden Dawn party Nikos Michaloliakos testifies, in the Court of Athens as part of a long-running trial over the party's activities in which he and several former party lawmakers are accused of running a criminal organization, in Athens, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

Associated Press

ATHENS, GREECE (AP) — The head of Greece's extreme far-right Golden Dawn party was testifying in court on Wednesday as part of a long-running trial over the party's activities in which he and several former party lawmakers are accused of running a criminal organization.

Nikos Michaloliakos is the last of 69 defendants, including 18 former lawmakers, to take the stand in the marathon trial that began in April 2015, sparked by the

2013 killing of Greek rapper Pavlos Fyssas for which a party volunteer was arrested. Michaloliakos is accused of forming a criminal organization and violating gun laws.

He denies all charges, and says they are part of a political conspiracy to destroy his party.

He points out this is the first time a party leader has been held responsible for the actions of a party supporter. He and several of his lawmakers were arrested and spent 18 months in jail

— the maximum allowed for pre-trial detention — after Fyssas' killing.

Nazi-inspired Golden Dawn rose to prominence during Greece's crushing financial crisis, evolving from a fringe group to become the country's third largest parliamentary party in 2014 elections, campaigning on a nationalist, anti-immigrant platform. Party members and supporters have been accused of violent attacks against migrants, including stabbings, beatings and arson. □



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Head of UN agency for Palestinian refugees resigns

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees resigned on Wednesday, following an internal investigation whose preliminary results reflected concerns over allegations of possible sexual misconduct, nepotism and other abuses of authority at the agency. The allegations in the ethics report came amid a financial crisis for the agency, sparked by the unprecedented loss of all funding from the United States, its largest donor.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric, who made the announcement, said the resignation of the agency's commissioner-general, Pierre Krahenbuhl, was effective immediately.

Earlier Wednesday, Dujarric said U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had placed Krahenbuhl on "administrative leave." The spokesman also said that the initial findings of the investigation by the U.N. Office of Internal Oversight Services "exclude fraud or misappropriation of operational funds by the commissioner-general."

Several hours later, he



In this Aug. 30, 2018 file photo, Pierre Krahenbuhl, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), speaks at a press conference in Amman, Jordan.

said Krahenbuhl informed Guterres of his immediate resignation and the U.N. chief thanked him "for his commitment and dedication" to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, known as UNRWA. Guterres had already appointed Christian Saunders to act as officer-in-charge of UNRWA, during Krahenbuhl's leave.

Saunders, a Briton, had been appointed as UNRWA's acting deputy

commissioner-general as the revelations first emerged. He began his U.N. career in 1989 with UNRWA in Gaza and was most recently U.N. assistant secretary-general for supply chain management. Saunders "will lead the implementation of a management plan to strengthen the Agency, particularly in the areas of oversight and accountability," Dujarric said. UNRWA earlier

Wednesday announced that Krahenbuhl had temporarily stepped aside. Its statement said the ongoing review by the U.N. internal watchdog turned up "a number of areas that required strengthening" at UNRWA, which was established to aid the 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were forced from their homes during the war surrounding Israel's establishment in 1948. UNRWA now provides

Associated Press

Airline says false hijack alarm caused Dutch airport alert

By PETER DEJONG

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

SCHIPHOL, Netherlands

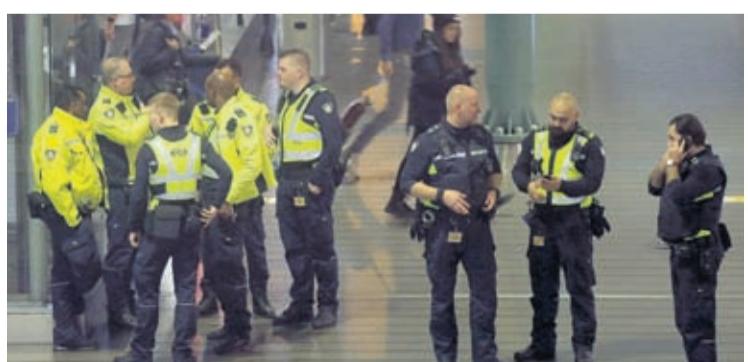
(AP) — An accidental hijack warning set off from the cockpit of a plane triggered a big security operation at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport on Wednesday night, a Spanish airline and Dutch military police said.

Air Europa said in a tweet that the scare that sent emergency services rush-

ing to the airport was a false alarm. The warning that triggers hijack protocols at airports "was activated, by mistake," on a plane that was bound for Madrid, the carrier tweeted. It did not say who activated the warning or how.

"Nothing has happened, all passengers are safe and sound waiting to fly soon. We deeply apologize," the airline said. The Dutch military police service earlier said it was responding to

a suspicious situation at the airport on the outskirts of Amsterdam. Dutch media reported that heavily armed arrest teams and other emergency service forces were deployed to the airport. The military police said in a tweet that it followed all protocols following the alarm and would now investigate how the report of a hijack or hostage situation came from the plane's cockpit. "The situation is now safe,"



Dutch police mill about after a threat at Schiphol airport in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

airport spokesman Dennis Muller told The Associated

Press. "All flights can now depart." □

Erdogan: Turkey captures slain IS leader al-Baghdadi's wife

By SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey has captured a wife of the slain leader of the Islamic State group, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday.

Erdogan made the announcement while delivering a speech in the capital of Ankara but gave no other details. He did not say when or how the woman was captured or identify her by name.

Al-Baghdadi was known to have four wives. One of his aides has said the shadowy IS leader had four wives, the maximum number he can have at one time under Islamic law.

"We caught his wife, but we didn't make a fuss about it. I am announcing this today for the first time," Erdogan said, while criticizing the United States for leading a "communications campaign" about Baghdadi's slaying.

The IS leader blew himself up during an Oct. 26 raid by U.S. special forces on his heavily fortified safe house in the Syrian province of Idlib.

Erdogan's announcement comes just days after Turkish forces captured al-Baghdadi's elder sister, identified as Rasmiya Awad, in the town of Azaz, in Aleppo



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan speaks during a meeting in Ankara, Turkey, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019.

province in northwestern Syria. Turkey has seized on both incidents to highlight what it says is its fight against the IS group, in the face of accusations that the Turkish military offensive last month to drive Syrian Kurdish fighters from northeast Syria would allow for a resurgence of the militant Islamic group.

Azaz is part of a region administered by Turkey following previous military incursions to chase away IS militants and Kurdish fighters, starting in 2016. Allied Syrian groups manage the area known as the Euphra-

tes Shield zone. Awad was with her husband, daughter-in-law and five children when she was detained. A Turkish official said the 65-year-old sister is suspected of being affiliated with the extremist group and called her capture an intelligence "gold mine." Authorities had posted a picture of the sister.

It was not immediately clear if Awad's capture led to intelligence that allowed for the detention of the wife.

One of al-Baghdadi's wives is an Iraqi known by the name of Nour, the daugh-

ter of one of his aides, Abu Abdullah al-Zubaie. She was identified by name by al-Baghdadi's brother-in-law in a recent interview with al-Arabiya TV. The brother-in-law, Mohamad Ali Sajit, who is in Iraqi custody, said al-Baghdadi had four wives when he last met him, sometime last summer. Also, one of al-Baghdadi's ex-wives was arrested in Lebanon in 2014, and was freed a year later in a prisoner swap with al-Qaida. The Iraqi ex-wife, Saja al-Dulaimi, had fled from al-Baghdadi in 2009 while pregnant with his daugh-

Associated Press

ter. At one point, al-Baghdadi was also believed to have married to a German teenager in 2015 but she was reported to have fled a year later.

The raid that killed al-Baghdadi was a major blow to his extremist group, which has lost territories it held in Syria and Iraq in a series of military defeats by the U.S.-led coalition and Syrian and Iraqi allies.

Al-Baghdadi's aide, a Saudi, was killed hours after the raid, also in northwestern Syria, in a U.S. strike. The group named a successor to al-Baghdadi days later, but little is known about him or how the group's structure has been affected by the successive blows.

Up and until his death, al-Baghdadi had moved from place to place in eastern Syria amid a tightening U.S.-led campaign against his group as IS-held territory fell bit by bit. He ended up in Idlib, in northwestern Syria, an area controlled by a rival, al-Qaida-linked militant group. It was not clear if any of his wives were with him at the time of the raid, during which two of his children were killed.

In its first video release after the killing of al-Baghdadi, IS media listed a series of its operations against Iranian-backed militias in northern Baghdad in Iraq. □

World Bank sounds alarm about Lebanon amid protests, crisis

By ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The World Bank called on Lebanese authorities Wednesday to urgently form a new government that can address the country's worsening economic situation, warning that Lebanon "does not have the luxury of time to waste." The stark warning came in a statement issued after a meeting between the World Bank's regional director and President Michel Aoun amid ongoing mass protests and a severe economic and financial crisis.

Prime Minister Saad Hariri resigned his government on Oct. 29 in response to the



Anti-government protesters chant slogans as they hold a placard in Arabic that reads "The clean judge stands alone," during ongoing protests against the Lebanese government, in front of the Justice Palace in Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

unprecedented protests which have swept Lebanon starting in the middle

balled into calls for the government to resign and for the entire political elite that has ruled Lebanon since the end of its 1975-90 civil war to step aside.

The protests have paralyzed the country and kept banks shuttered for two weeks. Lebanon, one of the most heavily indebted countries in the world, already was dealing with a severe fiscal crisis before the protests began, one rooted in years of heavy borrowing and expensive patronage networks run by entrenched political parties. The protesters are calling for the formation of a technocrat government that would get to work im-

mediately on addressing Lebanon's economic crisis. They accuse officials of dragging their feet on that. Following his meeting with Aoun, World Bank Regional Director Saroj Kumar Jha said he urged swift measures to ensure Lebanon's economic and financial stability. "The politics has most attention, but economy has the most risks," he said.

"With every passing day, the situation is becoming more acute and this would make recovery extremely challenging," he added. "Lebanon does not have the luxury of time to waste to redress issues that need immediate attention." □

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Pro-Beijing lawmaker in Hong Kong stabbed while campaigning

By EILEEN NG

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — An anti-government assailant stabbed and wounded a pro-Beijing Hong Kong lawmaker who was election campaigning Wednesday, police said, in another escalation of violence surrounding the protests demanding political reforms in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Junius Ho has become a hated figure by the protesters over his alleged links to violence against them. After receiving initial medical treatment, Ho told reporters the knife had been blocked by his rib cage and he was left a minor 2-centimeter (0.79-inch) deep wound.

The government condemned the attack and said police arrested the assailant. Ho, his assistant and the attacker were hospitalized, said a police official who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to make statements. A video circulating on social media showed a man



In this Aug. 12, 2019, photo, pro-Beijing lawmaker Junius Ho attends a demonstration of an anti-riot vehicle equipped with water cannon at the Police Tactical Unit Headquarters in Hong Kong.

Associated Press

giving flowers to Ho and asking permission to snap a picture with him. Instead, the man drew a knife from his bag and stabbed Ho's chest but was quickly overpowered by Ho and several others.

The man kept hurling abusive comments at Ho, calling him "human scum."

Ho has been targeted by anti-government protesters since July 21, when armed masked men in white T-shirts violently attacked demonstrators and passengers at a subway station in northern Yuen Long, injuring 45 people.

The attack marked a dark turn in the protests that

began in early June, and demonstrators have accused police of being slow to respond or even colluding with the attackers. Police later said members of triad gangs, a branch of organized crime, were involved in the attack. Ho was seen shaking hands with some of the attackers

that night.

Ho, whose constituency includes Yuen Long, denied colluding with triads. He said he bumped into the men after dinner and thanked them for "defending their homes" but said he didn't know about the violence until later. Protesters have thrashed Ho's office several times and desecrated his parents' graves.

Ho was campaigning for Nov. 24 district elections to pick 452 councilors, a low-level poll held every four years but closely watched this year as a gauge of public sentiment after five months of protests increasingly marked by violence by hardcore activists and hardening positions among public officials. The seats are currently dominated by the pro-establishment bloc. Many have seen the extradition bill that sparked the protests as a sign of Beijing infringing on Hong Kong's judicial freedoms and other rights guaranteed when the former British colony returned to China in 1997. □

Suspected rebels kill 15 at southern Thailand security posts

By SUMETH PANPETCH

Associated Press

YALA, Thailand (AP) — Gunmen in insurgency-wracked southern Thailand killed 15 village defense volunteers and wounded five security personnel in what is believed to be the deadliest attack on government forces since the separatist rebellion began 15 years ago.

Blood-stained clothing found at the scene suggested that some of the attackers on two check-



Police secure the road leading to a shooting scene in Yala province, Thailand, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

points in Yala province late Tuesday night also may have been wounded in exchanges of gunfire, said army spokesman Col. Kiat-tisak Neewong.

Thailand's volunteer forces in the south are raised from villages and receive weapons training from the army but no salary. They are usually issued shotguns but often carry personal handguns, and only guard their own villages rather than seek to confront the insurgents.

More than 7,000 people have been killed since the insurgency erupted in 2004 in Thailand's three southernmost provinces of Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala, the only ones with Muslim majorities in the Buddhist-dominant country. Muslim residents have long charged that they are treated like second-class citizens, and separatist movements have been periodically active for decades. Heavy-handed crackdowns have fueled the discontent. □

Colombia court upends old Latin America naming tradition

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO

CÉSAR GARCIA

Associated Press

BOGOTÁ, Colombia (AP)

— Tradition has long had it that children born to families in Latin America receive two last names: That of their father, followed by that of their mother.

Now that practice is being challenged in court.

Colombia's Constitutional Court ruled Tuesday that the tradition violates principles of equality, overturning a law in place since 1989 and ordering congress to draft new legislation that gives parents greater freedom in deciding the order of their child's last names.

"It's a huge step," said Juan Pablo Pantoja, a commercial law attorney who filed the court case on his own as a citizen in belief the current law was discriminatory. Colombia becomes the latest Latin American nation to upend the age-old practice, which has its roots in 18th century Spain and ensures the transcendence of patrilineal surnames.

In recent years, Argentina and Uruguay have changed laws to allow more flexibility. Spain no longer requires that a newborn be registered with the father's last name first.

In his complaint, Pantoja argued that the tradition



Claudia López, candidate for mayor of Bogotá with the Alianza Verde party, celebrates her electoral victory on Sunday, October 27, 2019, in Bogotá, Colombia.

Associated Press

is "a custom with medieval overtones" that violates laws guaranteeing women equal rights, among others. "The male surname cannot be privileged simply to perpetuate traditions that run counter to modern values," he wrote.

Government institutions including the Ministry of Interior argued in favor of upholding the law, contending that it does not privilege one parent over the other, and that changing the norm would not do anything to ensure equality

between men and women. Civil society groups and the Ombudsman's Office of Colombia claimed otherwise, saying the naming tradition contributes to keeping patriarchal tendencies alive. Pantoja said that while seemingly harmless, the privileged status given to male last names is a sort of "micro-chauvinism" leading many families to believe they need a son in order to pass down the family surname.

"It's a chauvinistic attitude of legal character," he said.

Pantoja said he became aware of the issue while working for the Colombian consulate in Argentina, where he often helped families register their newborns. Even though the children were born in Argentina, where families could choose the order of their infant's last names, they still had to follow Colombian naming traditions written into law to register as Colombian citizens.

"A name is important because it becomes part of your identity," he said.

The issue also intersects with LGBT rights, with same-sex couples wanting to enjoy the same privilege to pass down both family names to their children. A summary of the Colombian Constitutional Court's decision did not specify how it might apply to those families.

Lawmakers in other nations have tried to challenge the tradition without success. Lawmaker Marisa Glave introduced legislation in Peru in 2017 allowing parents the right to choose the order of their child's last names only to see it quashed by opposition lawmakers.

Colombian lawmakers are being given until June 2022 to draft new legislation in line with the Constitutional Court's decision. If they are unable to pass a new law by that time, registrars should begin letting parents decide the order of their child's last name. If couples aren't able to agree, a "competent authority" will randomly choose which parent surname goes first. The decision was welcome news for Janeth Santiago, 52, who followed traditional requirements in naming her child but likes the thought of future generations being given more flexibility.

"There won't be as much chauvinism in relationships," she said. □

Brazil's oil tender yields \$17 billion, falls short of hopes

By DIANE JEANTET

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil awarded two of the four blocks on offer in its priciest oil auction since 2010 on Wednesday, securing about \$17 billion dollars but falling short of government expectations.

The highly anticipated tender had captured the attention of some of the world's biggest oil firms, including the United States' ExxonMobil and other companies from China, Malaysia and Norway.

In the end, few participated. Chinese state-owned oil firms CNOOC and CNODC won the largest block, Buzios, in a consortium with Brazil's state-con-



Bento Albuquerque, minister of mines and energy, speaks during an oil auction in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

trolled Petrobras. The Chinese will have a minority share of 10 percent in the joint venture.

Petrobras was the sole participant and de facto win-

ner of the second awarded block, Itapu.

"We have to evaluate why the big (oil firms) didn't participate in this auction," said Brazil's energy minister,

Bento Albuquerque, adding that the government will review the auction's methodology to improve future tenders.

The contract terms stipulated that winning bidders were to reimburse an undisclosed amount of money to Petrobras to compensate for exploratory works already carried out by the company.

The fact that this sum was to be negotiated after the auction represented additional risk for potential investors.

Brazilian energy officials after the event maintained the auction was a success, though the proceeds fell short of the \$26 billion the government could have

obtained if all four blocks had been auctioned.

Décio Oddone, director of Brazil's National Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels called it a "historic day" for the oil sector. The tender is the result of years of difficult negotiations between the federal government, Petrobras, which had previous rights on the oil fields, and Brazilian states that also wanted a share of the windfall.

Brazil's oil sector has been recovering from the fall in international oil prices since 2014 as well as the sprawling "Car Wash" anti-graft probe that unveiled endemic corruption at the top levels of Petrobras and the government. □

LOCAL



Presentations, Workshops and Excursions Provide New Nature Conservation Drive in Participants

KRALENDIJK, BONAIRE — During the 2019 edition of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) convention held on Bonaire earlier this week, biologists from the region met to thoroughly discuss coral restoration, the Coral Action Plan, the (citizen) science platform Observation.org and the next call for research proposals from the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research (NWO).

In addition to attending presentations and workshops, the biologists from, among others, the six national parks of the Dutch Caribbean also went on an excursion to gain first-hand experience on the coral restoration work of the Reef Renewal Foundation on Bonaire.

In-depth information on coral recovery

The park biologists are now better informed on when and how to apply coral restoration methods since the presentations and workshops represented a unique opportunity to learn from each other's knowledge and experiences. This newly gained knowledge will undoubtedly benefit the work carried out on the other islands. "It is very inspiring to see what is already being done on Bonaire and to learn from the experiences of the other islands. It is also very insightful to learn about the available knowledge and how

accessible it is made through the developed methodologies." Jessica Berkel (STENAPA-St. Eustatius).

Public lecture creates mixed feelings amongst attendees

The public lecture held on Monday night caused mixed feelings amongst those in attendance. Based on scientific standards, the status of the coral reefs in the Dutch Caribbean is moderate to very unfavorable. This means that urgent measures need to be taken.

The main consideration is that the status of the coral reefs are crucial for the sustainable prosperity of the islands in the long term. The willpower to take action and prevent further decline of coral reefs is therefore very strong at this moment. In the coming years, the DCNA will also focus on coral recovery. Hans Verdaat presented how the free website DutchCaribbean.Observation.org and related apps could be used by the nature conservation organizations of the Dutch Caribbean. This free website and these free apps can be used not only by biologists but also by all citizens to report animals and plants.

They are furthermore available in more than 40 languages. The website is now also being translated to Papiamentu. The species reports by local communities are very valuable for the nature conserva-



tion organization. They represent a useful source of knowledge and contribute to the protection of the reported species. For more information, contact research@dcnatenature.org.

Exploring inter-island collaboration possibilities

Arjan de Groene of World Wildlife Fund (WWF-NL) gave a workshop on the Nature Policy Plan including the Coral Action Plan that is under development for the BES islands. The workshop provided a valuable platform for the participants to give input on how to successfully implement this plan and for the other three Dutch Caribbean islands Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten

to give input for possible future inter-island collaboration possibilities with the BES-islands. Optimization of New Research Projects Joseph Stuefer and Niels van den Berg from the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) gave an update on the upcoming call for scientific research proposals in the Dutch Caribbean. This workshop also provided a valuable platform for local organizations to discuss the desired approach and results of research projects through which they can improve the management of nature parks and protect vulnerable areas and animals. For more information, please contact DCNA: (+599) 717-5010 or research@dcnatenature.org. □

Join the locals for a night full of culture, arts and fun

SAN NICOLAS — Join the locals for a night full of culture, arts and fun in Aruba's Sunrise City for the monthly event 'Meet San Nicolas'. This free entrance event starts at 06:30 PM till 10 PM in the promenade of San Nicolas.

San Nicolas is Aruba's most south eastern district, called by many "Chocolate City" or "Sunrise City". It's where you will find and meet the most Caribbean atmosphere that Aruba has to offer. The sole purpose of this event is to gather our visitors and locals and let them get to know the real San Nicolas. Here you will find a great variety of the best homemade food, pastries and real local handmade



souvenirs, most of it made and prepared by San Nicolas residents themselves.

The promenade will be lined with arts & crafts tables and a variety of food vendors, most offering

authentic local and Caribbean dishes. There is also a great assortment of local snacks and lots of Aruban-style cakes and sweets. Mingle with the locals and enjoy some food, drinks, art, dancing and feel the good vibes! Take a walk and admire the amazing murals created by Aruba Art Fair. Dance the night away at the sound of the Steelband and the Carnival dancers.

Head up to San Nicolas tonight and see for yourself why they call this 'The people's choice public gathering event'.

For more information check out the Facebook page Meet San Nicolas. □



Creative Islander

CREATIVITY AND CULTURE AT THE HEART OF THE ARUBAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BY THAIS FRANKEN

Exploring the Role of Museums in the Aruban Society

ORANJESTAD – Throughout the entire discussion of national cultural heritage, museums and historical cultural institutions are considered imperative pillars for the preservation of tangible and intangible heritage. In previous columns the focus was mainly on describing the essence of these concepts and what they could contribute to the dialogue in the Aruban local cultural context.

Fortunately, yesterday on November 5th 2019, after being closed for more than two years, the 'Museo Arqueológico Nacional Aruba' (MANA) was reopened to the public. The MANA was initially opened on July 26th 2019 and has since then paved the way for other museum developments on the island. With the use of the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF) the Government of Aruba was able to invest in the resources needed to reopen the permanent exposition of the MANA to the Aruban community.

Besides the MANA, Aruba has several other museums such as; the Industry Museum, the San Nicolas Community Museum, the Aloe Museum, the History Museum, the Carnival Exhibition and so on. "Museums can play a leading role in bolstering the creative economy locally and regionally. Museums are also increasingly present in the social sphere, acting as platforms for debate and discussion, tackling complex societal issues and encouraging public participation" (UNESCO, 2019). Continuing the vision of the Aruban government, working towards a human-centered approach, the aim should be on fostering sustainable cultural development in the Aruban society. Mu-

seums don't only influence the fostering and strengthening cultural system, but serve as a pillar in sectors such as education and tourism.

Museums and Education

With no doubt we can conclude that education is a critical asset for sustainable development. Education that is not representative of the cultures of the people in a society is empty and incompetent. One of the primary objectives of any museum is to educate the public, and it is only the museum that has the capacity and the ability to impart cultural education effectively as it encompasses the necessary resources for doing so in its collections. Most museums possess diverse materials and information that can and therefore should be used in enriching and improving

the school curriculum throughout various disciplines and levels. The focus should be on inclusivity in educational policy making and project management. Educational planners should consider working closely with museum professionals on how the available educational resources in the museum can be integrated into the curriculum and the learning process at all levels. The goal for museums should be to use their collections in promoting a better understanding of the collective Aruban heritage, which will have the effect of fostering the commonality of those things that unite the nation and its people. As education becomes a global issue as the century evolves, it should be clearly understood that the museum is a veritable institution in the learning process that should be fully integrated into the educational system. This push can also encourage museums to innovate and provide a learning experience that fits the needs of students in the 21st century.

Museum and Tourism

Besides local development, on a broader perspective, museums can promote cultural diplomacy that will engender greater understanding between people and other nations. "Along with the dramatic rise in cultural tourism in recent decades, the number of museums around the world has increased from 22,000 in 1975 to 55,000 today" (UNESCO, 2019). Cultural tourism is therefore also significant in this discussion. Tourism that is concentrated on "a country culture, overtly the lifestyle of the people in those geographical areas, the history of those people, their art, architecture, religion, and other elements that helped shape their way of life" (UNESCO, 2018).



Continued on Page 15

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Shalom Body & Soul Spa
The Collectables

Exploring the Role of Museums in the Aruban Society

Continued from Page 14

Developing countries, such as Aruba "need support from international community in safeguarding their precious heritage. Cultural heritage tourism is one of the best parts of the tourism industry, and is a more powerful economic development tool. It has been revealed that museums are now playing a major role not only in the wider sphere of arts, but also within tourism and leisure. Museums cannot no longer sit back and expect that people will start queuing up. Their roles have changed to attract more audiences" (Perera, 2013) besides the local society.

Moving Forward

While we celebrate the inauguration

of the MANA to the Aruban public and international visitors, the role of adequate cultural policy and management should not be taken lightly. "UNESCO supports developing countries using museums' potential to foster social cohesion, notably among local communities and disadvantaged groups" (UNESCO, 2019). Aruba in her effort should in a concrete way establish an inclusive cultural roadmap, which identifies a central cultural vision, a practical overview of contributions from all relevant stakeholders, a national resource inventory to secure the sustainability and effectiveness in the long run. We have a diverse set of puzzles on the table. Now, the time has come to make something impactful for the future. □



Biography - Thaïs G. Franken (24) is a recently graduated Aruban student at the University of Maastricht (UM). She obtained her graduate double master of science degree in Public Policy and Human Development in collaboration with the United Nations University Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT). Back home, on the beautiful island of Aruba, she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Organization, Governance & Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba (UA), where she successfully defended her thesis titled "Placing Culture and Creativity at the Heart of the Aruban Sustainable Development". It was precisely this research project that inspired the emergence of the "Creative Islander" column in 2018. Thaïs is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture, creativity, social entrepreneurship and their role in public management. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.

Central Bank of Aruba: Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of July 2019



ORANJESTAD — Net sales of Foreign exchange drives decline in money supply.

Monetary developments

Compared to June 2019, money supply contracted in July 2019 by Afl. 55.5 million to Afl. 4,379.8 million, resulting from a decrease in both net foreign assets (-Afl. 41.9 million) and net domestic assets (-Afl. 13.6 million).

The reduction in the domestic component of the money supply was due to a decrease in the non-credit re-

lated balance sheet items (-Afl. 28.5 million) compared to the increase in domestic credit (+Afl. 14.9 million). The growth in domestic credit was caused by expansions in both the net claims of the banking sector on the public sector (+Afl. 13.0 million) and in the claims of the banking sector on the private sector (+Afl. 1.9 million).

The upturn in claims of the banking sector on the private sector was attributed to increases in loans to enterprises (+Afl. 8.2 million)

and housing mortgages (+Afl. 3.7 million), which were offset by lower credit to consumers (-Afl. 10.1 million). In addition, the growth in the net claims of the banking sector on the public sector was caused by a decline in government deposits (-Afl. 12.9 million). In the month under review, net sales of foreign exchange to the public (-Afl. 247.3 million) were greater than the net purchases from the public (+Afl. 205.4 million). These net sales of foreign exchange were mainly associated with pay-

ments for goods imports, direct investment, and other services. Net purchases of foreign exchange were primarily related to the revenue generated from tourism services.

Inflation

The consumer price index (CPI) for July 2019 noted a 3.7 percent increase year-over-year (YOY). The main contributor to this rise was the component "Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages". The 12-month average inflation rate was 4.2 percent in July 2019, compared to

4.3 percent in June 2019.

Government

Total government revenue amounted to Afl. 102.3 million in July 2019, Afl. 13.2 million more than the same month of the previous year. This outcome resulted from an increase in tax revenue (+Afl. 15.4 million) and a decrease in nontax revenue (-Afl. 2.2 million).

The expansion in tax revenue was associated mainly with increases in income from turnover tax (+Afl. 8.9 million; introduction of the B.A.V.P. as opposed to the same month in 2018) and foreign exchange tax (+Afl. 2.4 million). In contrast, income from wage tax (-Afl. 3.8 million) and profit tax (-Afl. 2.1 million) both noted declines.

Tourism

Please note that figures on tourism were not yet available at the time of publication of this bulletin.

For further information or a more detailed analysis, visit the website (www.cbaruba.org) or contact the Statistics Department of the Centrale Bank van Aruba, tel. +297-525-2100, e-mail statistics.department@cbaruba.org. □

Their favorite vacation destination

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

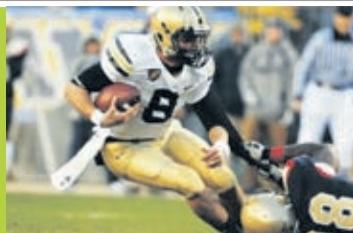
The honorees were couple **Andrew & Mary Alice Matthew** together with couple Joe & Elaine Dobosh, all from USA.

These wonderful people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, its safety, delicious variety of foods and Aruba's warm and friendly people that became like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Aruba All Inclusive Resort presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



SPORTS



The MLS Cup trophy is displayed Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, in Seattle.

Associated Press

Don Garber touts MLS successes while labor negotiations loom

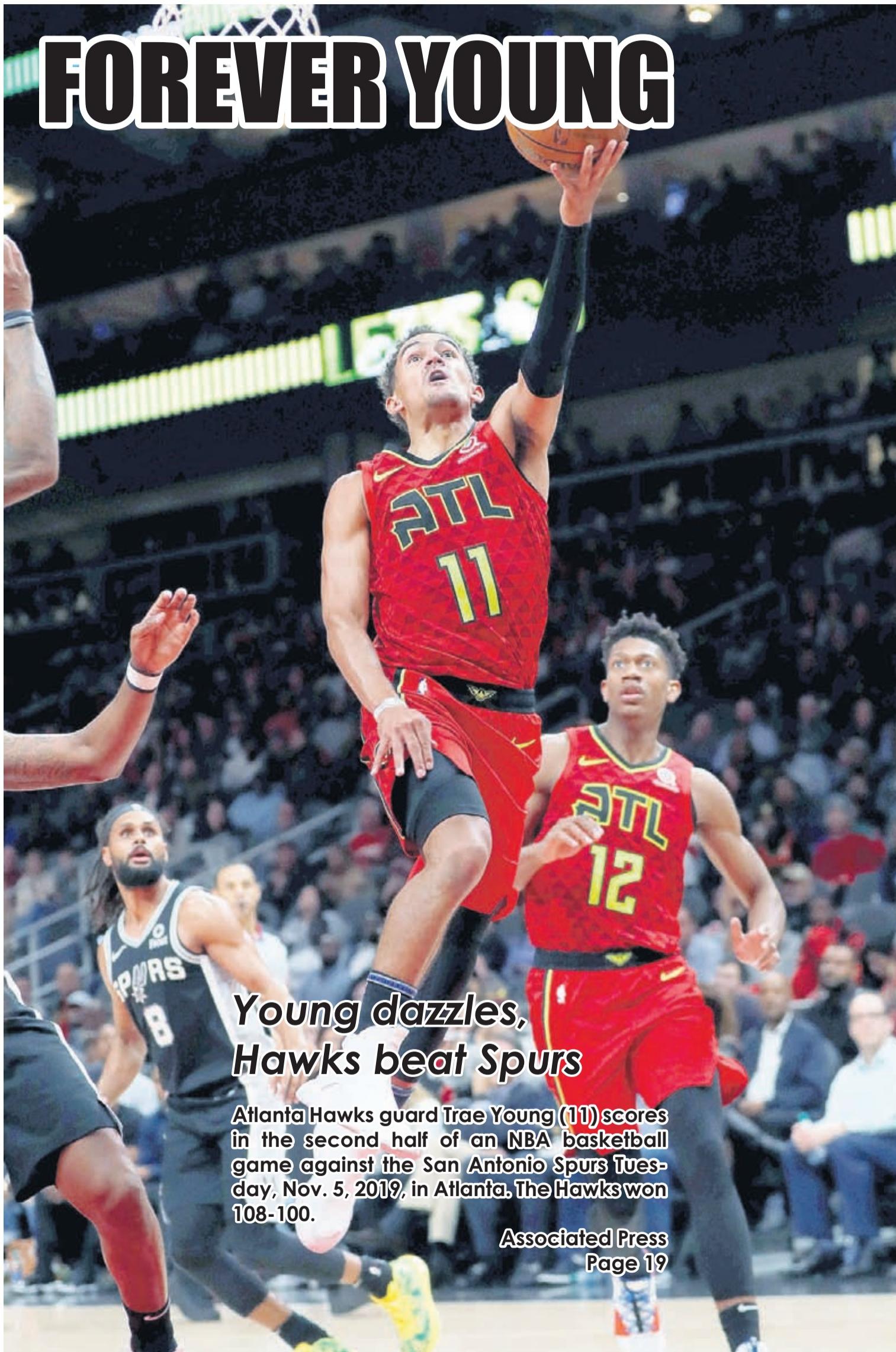
By TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Whether it's the increased talent in the league, a highly successful format change for the postseason, or the addition of more expansion teams, Major League Soccer Commissioner Don Garber sees a wave of momentum heading into this weekend's MLS Cup final. That momentum could all come to a halt in a hurry, though, if the league doesn't reach a labor deal with its players before the start of the 2020 season. Negotiations over a new collective bargaining agreement are set to take the offseason spotlight.

"We and our players are focused on doing everything possible to reach an agreement that'll make sense for ownership and makes sense for the players," Garber told The Associated Press in a phone interview Wednesday.

Continued on Page 20

FOREVER YOUNG



Young dazzles, Hawks beat Spurs

Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young (11) scores in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, in Atlanta. The Hawks won 108-100.

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Rivalries in golf require more than a great year

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SHANGHAI (AP) — The question was in Chinese, so Rory McIlroy stared aimlessly until his eyes widened suddenly upon hearing two words he could understand.

Brooks Koepka.

McIlroy could only smile, and when the reporter finally finished his question, the interpreter at the HSBC Champions looked over at him and said, "Do you still need me to translate?"

The question was about the "competition" between the two players, which was accurate.

Rivalry?

That takes more time than one year — in this case, closer to three months.

McIlroy finds the topic silly, which he should, because golf has developed so many good players over the last five years that what looks like a rivalry now might be forgotten by next year, if not sooner.

This is more like flavor of the month.

"You're still talking about me, though," McIlroy said with a laugh.

It's important to McIlroy that he's part of the conversation, because that's all anyone should want. That was the message Jack Nicklaus shared with Tiger Woods when they were in South Africa for the Presidents Cup in 2003 and Woods was asking about the various rivals Nicklaus faced.

"The top of the men's game



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland poses with the trophy after winning the HSBC Champions golf tournament at the Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019.

Associated Press

is very equal," McIlroy said. "We can all beat each other any given week, and to make it about two people is disrespectful to the likes of Justin Thomas or Dustin Johnson, whoever it might be. It creates a better narrative for the casual fan if it's one guy versus another guy. But the reality is, there are 10, 15 guys that when they play their best can say they're the best in the world."

When the year began, McIlroy wasn't part of the conversation unless it was a long one.

He was No. 8 in the world and had gone nine months without winning, being in serious contention in only a few tournaments. Koepka and Justin Rose ended last

year taking turns at No. 1 in the world, and before long Johnson replaced them. If anything, golf was a battle between Koepka and Johnson for the first half of the year — both had runner-up finishes in the Masters, and Johnson nearly rallied from a seven-shot deficit in the PGA Championship against Koepka until his 5-iron one-hopped over the 16th green at Bethpage Black.

Johnson didn't win the last nine months of the year. Rose was No. 1 when he won at Torrey Pines. He hasn't won since then and now is No. 8.

It's a revolving door. And now it's Koepka and McIlroy, with just enough history to feed the notion or

a rivalry.

Koepka rallied to beat him at a World Golf Championships event. Four weeks later, McIlroy rallied to beat him at the Tour Championship for the FedEx Cup and said of Koepka, "He's turned into a heck of a player over the last couple of years, and I definitely expect more Sundays like that between the both of us in the future."

It will be months before they play in the same tournament.

McIlroy was voted PGA Tour player of the year, which featured no exit polling, margin of victory or how many players even voted.

Koepka has been No. 1 in the world since the middle

of May, and he said he wasn't looking behind him and thus didn't consider anyone a rival. He provided more fodder — along with more clicks — by saying in an interview with Agence France-Presse that in his five years on the PGA Tour, McIlroy hasn't won a major. And on it goes.

Jordan Spieth was at the Sony Open in Honolulu to start his year when he mentioned in a news conference how it was only a few years ago that the "Big Three" was being talked about in nearly every interview. The few reporters in the room looked around, trying to recall which three players he meant. Never mind that they were the ones who had been writing about it.

It was Spieth, McIlroy and Jason Day. Remember?

"Not one of us three has been talked about in the last couple years," Spieth said that day. "Everyone is so quick on what's happens. It's today's news."

Spieth has gone more than two years without a win and is No. 42 in the world. Day has gone winless in two of his last three PGA Tour seasons and is barely inside the top 30. McIlroy won once in a span of 50 starts until The Players Championship, and now he can't seem to lose. Spieth believes it is hard for a real rivalry to develop because there are too many good players, and because everyone likes one another. □

Anti-sex trafficking effort launched for Miami Super Bowl

By CURT ANDERSON

AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Major events that draw tens of thousands of people such as the Super Bowl have become hubs for sex trafficking, which Miami officials said Wednesday that they are determined to snuff out for this season's event.

Federal and local law enforcement officials launched an initiative aimed at raising awareness of the problem and attempting to enlist regular people to report suspected sex trafficking activity, which often involves children

as young as 12. The Super Bowl will be played Feb. 2 at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, but dozens of party-atmosphere events surround the contest itself — all of which present opportunities for sex trafficking and prostitution.

"We're not going to tolerate the sexual exploitation of our children and our youth," Katherine Fernandez Rundle, the Miami-Dade state attorney, said at a news conference.

"We are really ready to head this off," she added.

The Miami effort will include ads

including a "creepy guy" poster bearing the words: "Buy Sex. Be Exposed."

That and other ads will appear on buses, in social media, on billboards, at mass transit stations and many other places.

The plan includes a 24-hour phone number people can call or text to report suspicious behavior: 305-FIX-STOP.

"Sex trafficking is a big deal," Miami U.S. Attorney Ariana Fajardo Orshan said. "We have no problem going after the most difficult cases."

Authorities say Miami-Dade

County ranks first in sex trafficking in Florida, which in turn ranks third in the nation. About 40% of victims are children and most of the rest are young adults between 18 and 23 years old. Federal statistics show that some victims are sold for sex up to 20 times a day. A trafficker can make between \$150,000 and \$200,000 a year for each person they sell for sex.

Kathy Andersen, executive director of The Women's Fund Miami-Dade, said sex trafficking is a chronic problem that the Super Bowl helps bring to greater attention. □

Hayward ties career high with 39 as Celtics top Cavs 119-113

By The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Gordon Hayward tied a career high with 39 points, making all 16 of his 2-point attempts, and the Boston Celtics won their fifth straight game by holding off the Cleveland Cavaliers 119-113 on Tuesday night.

Hayward put in Kemba Walker's miss with 22 seconds left to give Boston a 118-113 lead. Walker stole the inbounds pass and hit a free throw to put the game away.

Hayward made 17 of 20 shots, including a 3-pointer. The 6-foot-7 forward scored 16 points in the opening quarter and 22 in the first half, hitting all nine attempts from the field.

Walker had 25 points for Boston, which hasn't lost since the season opener against Philadelphia.

Collin Sexton, who scored 21 points, hit a 3 with 1:33 to play that cut Boston's lead to 116-113. The score remained that way until Hayward's crucial basket after his offensive rebound.

HORNETS 122, PACERS 120, OT

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Devonte Graham scored a career-high 35 points, Bismack Biyombo provided a huge spark off the bench late and Charlotte battled back from a 14-point, fourth-quarter deficit to beat Indiana.

Graham sank 2 of 3 free-throw attempts with 1.7 seconds left in overtime af-



Boston Celtics' Gordon Hayward (20) drives past Cleveland Cavaliers' Larry Nance Jr. (22) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, in Cleveland.

ter drawing a foul on JaKarr Sampson, helping the Hornets win their third straight game.

Terry Rozier added 22 points and Miles Bridges had 18 for the Hornets (4-3).

T.J. Warren scored 33 points on 15-of-18 shooting and Malcolm Brogdon added 31 points for the Pacers (3-4), who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

LAKERS 118, BULLS 112

CHICAGO (AP) — LeBron James had 30 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his third consecutive triple-double, and Los Angeles rallied to beat Chicago for its sixth straight victory.

Los Angeles trailed by 19 before shutting down Chicago in the fourth quarter during the finale of a three-game trip. While James turned in another brilliant performance, he was on the bench for most of a 16-0 run to begin the final period.

Kyle Kuzma, Quinn Cook and Dwight Howard sparked the Lakers' comeback. Kuzma scored 11 of his 15 points in the fourth, and Howard had a key block on Coby White during the big spurt. Cook made a 3-pointer to give Los Angeles a 94-93 lead with 8:53 remaining.

HAWKS 108, SPURS 100

ATLANTA (AP) — Trae Young scored 28 of his 29 points in the second half, Jabari Parker added 19 points and Atlanta moved past the suspension of John Collins to snap a three-game losing streak.

Young, returning after miss-

ing one game with a right ankle sprain, put on some dazzling moves in the fourth quarter to help his team overcome the loss of Collins, who was suspended earlier in the day for 25 games without pay for a violation of the NBA's anti-drug program after testing positive for a growth hormone.

DeMar DeRozan scored 22 points, Bryn Forbes had 17 and Patty Mills 16 for the Spurs. San Antonio has dropped three of four.

THUNDER 102, MAGIC 94

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 17 of his 24 points in the second half to lift Oklahoma City over Orlando.

Chris Paul added 20 points and six assists for the Thunder (3-4), who held their opponent under 100 points for the fourth time in seven games. Steven Adams had 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Aaron Gordon had 15 points and eight rebounds to lead the Magic (2-5), who have yet to reach 100 points in a game this season.

Orlando had six players reach double figures in

Associated Press

points, including Jonathan Issac, who had 13 points and 10 rebounds for his first double-double of the season. Nikola Vucevic had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

NUGGETS 109, HEAT 89

DENVER (AP) — Jamal Murray scored 21 points, Will Barton and Jerami Grant had 15 each, and Denver pulled away in the second half to beat Miami.

Jimmy Butler had 16 points and Kelly Olynyk 13 for Miami, which ended a three-game winning streak. It was the first time this season the Heat had failed to score at least 100 points.

The Nuggets held Miami to 36.4 percent shooting from the floor while converting 52.3 percent of their shots. □

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Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.



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MLS

Continued from Page 17

"You know, those conversations are ongoing and they've been productive. As the league continues to grow, more opportunity exists for everyone and more issues exist that we have to manage as the league develops."

MLS will celebrate the conclusion of its 24th season Sunday when the Seattle Sounders host Toronto FC in the league championship game.

It's been a banner year for the league on the field with the debut of FC Cincinnati, the announcement of St. Louis and Sacramento as the latest expansion franchises to come on board starting in 2022 and a dazzling MVP season from LAFC's Carlos Vela that re-wrote the record book. Carrying that momentum into 2020 and beyond will require a labor agreement with players who appear

more unified and more willing to walk out than in 2015 when a strike was averted by just a couple of days. Players want to see another bump in salary.

They want more free agency and increased choice in where they play.

They also want the arduous travel of a long season eased by more charter flights allocated for teams. Those are just some of a long list of issues for the sides to work through.

"It would be inconceivable to think we would be negotiating about charter travel in our last agreement or the one prior to that, because it wasn't something that anybody thought could ever be contemplated and here we are. It's a subject that will be an element of bargaining," Garber said. "We have all sorts of new approaches to how we're going about signing our players and managing our rosters with Targeted Allo-



Seattle Sounders celebrate after defeating Los Angeles FC 3-1 during the MLS soccer Western Conference final, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2019, in Los Angeles.

cation Money as an example, something that wasn't even part of our discussions in our last agreement. I look at momentum and success as creating opportunity for all and at the same time representing ownership and reaching an agreement that is fiscally responsible."

The MLS Players' Union has established a fund to help players should there be a

strike and advised them to start putting money aside in the event of a work stoppage.

Garber said he doesn't see those moves as ominous signs of what is to come. "Nothing has changed in my mind," he said.

Garber touched on several other topics. — Garber said the move to a single-game format for the MLS Cup playoffs has

been a resounding success, both in the quality of the games and for television ratings.

The playoffs will be capped by a sold-out final Sunday. More than 69,000 spectators are expected, which would be the second-largest crowd for an MLS final.

"We're excited about it because our fans are excited about it," Garber said.

"They really believe in this idea of every player needs to put it all out on the field in every single game because if you don't win, you go home."

— With Sacramento and St. Louis already announced, the league plans one more expansion club to bring the league's total to 30 teams. Garber said that does not need to be announced before the end of the year, but the 30th team would likely start in 2022 with the other two expansion clubs. While Phoenix and Las Vegas have been mentioned as potential options, Charlotte appears to be the leader. □

Associated Press



Chiefs enter another wait-and-see week with Mahomes

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs will continue to split first-team reps in practice between Patrick Mahomes and backup Matt Moore this week, leaving open the possibility the league's MVP could be back for Sunday's game at Tennessee.

Mahomes has been out since dislocating his kneecap in a game against Denver on Oct. 17. He has yet to miss a practice but was ruled out for the Chiefs' game against Green Bay, then was questionable last week against Minnesota before he was declared inactive on game day.

"It's going to be day to day," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "He didn't take a ton of reps last week. We'll try to increase him a little bit and see how it works out. And we'll keep you abreast as it goes, but right now that's where we're at."

The Chiefs (6-3) have gone 2-1 with Moore at the helm, including the game he finished in Denver, which has allowed them to maintain their lead in the AFC West and keep pace in the race for a first-round bye and homefield advantage in the playoffs. That stretch also has taken some of the pressure off the Chiefs to rush Mahomes back to the field before he's ready. After the trip to Tennessee, the Chiefs head to Mexico City to face the Chargers before getting a long-awaited bye. The field conditions were so disastrous at Azteca Stadium last year that the Chiefs' scheduled game there was relocated at the last minute, and despite a new surface and NFL assurances, the Chiefs may not want to press their luck with Mahomes there. In other words, Mahomes



In this Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019, file photo, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes sits on the bench prior to an NFL football game against the Denver Broncos in Denver.

Associated Press

could return his week. Or next week. Or not until the Chiefs return from their bye for their next home game against the Raiders on Dec. 1.

"The doctors, they're involved. We have experts looking at it. I'm not the expert, that's for sure," Reid said. "Now it's a matter of just going through and doing it. Increase his work level and see how he handles it and that's where we're at. We'll monitor it."

Reid did acknowledge that Moore would start if Mahomes is unable to go.

The longtime Panthers and Dolphins quarterback was out of football entirely last season, but he was signed prior to the Chiefs' pre-season finale when backup Chad Henne broke his

ankle. Henne was activated from injured reserve last week and was Moore's backup against the Vikings. "We're kind of in the same pattern we've been in the past couple of weeks," Moore said. "We're day-to-day and moving forward, similar to last week."

Part of the reason Moore would be the guy: He's earned it, exceeding even the most optimistic of expectations that the Chiefs could have placed on a QB who was coaching prep football three months ago.

Moore threw for 117 yards and a score in wrapping up the 30-6 rout of Denver, and he threw for 267 yards and two touchdowns while going toe-to-toe with Aaron Rodgers in a nip-and-tuck

31-24 loss to Green Bay. He threw for 275 yards and a score against Minnesota, and made several stoic throws late in the game that helped the Chiefs tie it and then set up Harrison Butker for the winning field goal.

Add it up and Moore has completed 65% of his passes for 659 yards with four TDs and no interceptions — not Mahomes-like numbers, but good enough for the Chiefs to keep winning. "We've been comfortable with Matt. It doesn't matter who goes out there at quarterback. Sammy can go out there," Chiefs wide receiver Tyreek Hill said of his running mate, Sammy Watkins.

"Anybody can go out there at quarterback and we're

going to be comfortable with him," Hill said, "because Coach Reid, he's been doing this thing for so long that if he puts them at quarterback, we believe they're going to do their thing. So, it doesn't matter who's going to be at quarterback. But Matt has been doing a great job ever since Pat went down."

NOTES: DE Frank Clark (neck) and RG Laurent Duvernay-Tardif (ankle) returned to practice after missing last week's game. LT Eric Fisher (groin) and DE Alex Okafor (ankle) remained out. ... The Chiefs signed TE Alize Mack to the practice squad and released P Jack Fox, who had been signed as insurance if Dustin Colquitt (quad) was unable to play last week. □

Islanders beat Senators 4-1 for 10th straight win

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Cole Bardreau scored his first NHL goal on a penalty shot in the second period, and the New York Islanders beat the Ottawa Senators 4-1 Tuesday night for their 10th straight win.

Cal Clutterbuck and Casey Cizikas each had a goal and an assist, and Josh Bailey also scored to help the Islanders win their first game in Brooklyn this season and extend their winning streak to the second-longest in franchise history, trailing only a 15-game run Jan. 21 to Feb. 20, 1982. Thomas Greiss stopped 27 shots.

Jean-Gabriel Pageau had a goal for the Senators and Craig Anderson finished with 28 saves. Ottawa had won three of five after starting the season 1-6-1.

CANADIENS 5, BRUINS 4

MONTREAL (AP) — Canadiens defenseman Victor Mete scored twice to help Montreal beat Boston.

Ben Chiarot scored the winner in the third period and Tomas Tatar and Paul Byron also scored for the Canadiens (8-5-2), who have won four of five. Jeff Petry had two assists.

David Pastrnak, Connor Clifton, Anders Bjork and Sean Kuraly scored for the Bruins (11-2-2), who had a six-game win streak halted. It was hardly a goaltending battle, with Carey Price stopping 21 of 25 shots and Tuukka Rask allowing five goals on 31 shots.

The Canadiens took a 4-3 lead into the third period, but Boston overcame its third deficit when Kuraly surprised Price on a wrap-around at 3:03.

FLYERS 4, HURRICANES 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Sean Couturier had a goal and an assist, Travis Konecny scored the tiebreaker early in the third period and Philadelphia topped Carolina. Claude Giroux and 19-year-old rookie Joel Farabee also scored, and Matt Niskanen had two assists for the Flyers. Carter Hart made 33 saves.

Lucas Wallmark scored for the Hurricanes, who have lost six of 10 after a 5-0 start. Petr Mrazek made 24 saves.



Ottawa Senators center Artem Anisimov hooks New York Islanders center Cole Bardreau (34) during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

MAPLE LEAFS 3, KINGS 1

TORONTO (AP) — Auston Matthews and William Nylander scored 30 seconds apart in the third period to send Toronto past Los Angeles.

Alexander Kerfoot also scored for Toronto (8-5-3), which got 24 saves from Frederik Andersen. Matthews and Nylander each added an assist.

Maple Leafs captain John Tavares was back in the lineup after missing seven games with a broken finger.

Alex Iafallo scored for the Kings (5-10-0). Jonathan Quick made 20 saves.

Matthews snapped a 1-all tie with 7:24 left in regulation when he scored his 12th of the season.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 2, BLUE JACKETS 1

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Reilly Smith scored twice, Marc-Andre Fleury made 29 saves and Vegas halted a two-game skid with a win over Columbus.

Playing against his former team, William Karlsson assisted on both of Smith's goals as the Golden Knights got back in the win column after dropping three of four. They lost the previous two in overtime after holding two-goal leads.

Boone Jenner scored and Joonas Korpisalo had 23 saves in the Blue Jackets' fifth straight loss.

DEVILS 2, JETS 1, SO

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Nikita Gusev and Jesper Boqvist scored in the shootout to lift New Jersey over Winnipeg.

Nico Hischier scored in the first period for the Devils, who are 4-1-2 in their past seven games. Mackenzie Blackwood stopped 32 shots.

Andrew Copp had a goal in the second for the Jets, who started a four-game homestand and lost in extra time for the first time this season.

Connor Hellebuyck made 31 saves for Winnipeg, which went 1-4 on its last homestand.

Winnipeg had won its previous seven games against the Devils.

STARS 4, AVALANCHE 1

DALLAS (AP) — Radek Faksa scored two goals off rebounds and Dallas won for the seventh time in eight games, beating Colorado. Jason Dickinson scored in the first period and Corey Perry added a goal in the third for the Stars, who never trailed. Ben Bishop made 36 saves.

J.T. Compher scored for the Avalanche, who fell to 0-4-1 in their last five games.

Colorado lost replay challenges after the Stars' first and third goals. Because of that, the Avalanche received six minutes in penalties.

SHARKS 4, BLACKHAWKS 2

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Patrick Marleau celebrated his 800th consecutive game by scoring a goal, and San Jose beat Chicago to halt a five-game losing streak.

The Sharks had been outscored 22-8 during the skid and failed to earn a point or hold a lead at any point during a stretch that left last season's Western Conference runners-up near the bottom of the standings.

All three of Marleau's goals this season have come against Chicago. Longtime teammate Joe Thornton got the second assist, his first on a score by Marleau since the 2017 playoffs. Thornton has assisted on 122 of Marleau's 554 career goals.

Evander Kane added a short-handed goal later in the second period. Tomas Hertl and Timo Meier also scored for the Sharks, and Martin Jones made 19 saves.

The Blackhawks got late goals from Brandon Saad and Duncan Keith to make it a one-goal game with 1:54 to play. Meier sealed it with an empty-netter.

WILD 4, DUCKS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Mats Zuccarello scored the tying goal on a breakaway and assisted on Eric Staal's go-ahead goal early in the third period as Minnesota snapped its five-game

road losing streak with a victory over Anaheim.

Kevin Fiala also scored and Alex Stalock made 29 saves for the Wild, who came back from a two-goal deficit for only their second win in nine road games this season. Zach Parise added an empty-netter to cap Minnesota's four-goal rally, which provided a much-needed boost for the last-place club in the opener of a four-game West Coast trip.

Jacob Larsson got his first career goal and Rickard Rakell also scored for the Ducks, who failed to earn a point for the first time in four games on their seven-game homestand. Anaheim also lost for the first time in nine games this season when taking a lead into the third period.

FLAMES 4, COYOTES 3, OT

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Matthew Tkachuk scored with 34 seconds on the clock in overtime to give Calgary a comeback victory over Arizona.

After the Flames trailed 3-1 late in the third period, Tkachuk and Mark Giordano scored in a 49-second span to tie it. Johnny Gaudreau also scored for Calgary, and David Rittich made 34 saves.

Clayton Keller, Christian Dvorak and Vinnie Hinostroza scored for the Coyotes. Antti Raanta stopped 39 shots.

BLUES 2, CANUCKS 1, OT

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Jaden Schwartz scored on a 3-on-0 break at 3:28 of overtime to lift St. Louis over Vancouver.

It was the fifth consecutive win for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who are 7-1-0 in their past eight games.

The deciding goal came after Vancouver's Tyler Myers fired a shot that missed wide of the St. Louis net and caromed way up the ice with three Blues chasing. Schwartz finished off a tic-tac-toe play alongside Alex Pietrangelo and Brayden Schenn.

Canucks rookie Quinn Hughes tied the game at 1 with 3:35 remaining in the third period. □

Diamond League track series drops 3 less popular events

MONACO (AP) — Track and field's global Diamond League series is dropping discus, triple jump and the 3,000 meters steeplechase as official points-scoring events due to fading interest from fans.

The IAAF governing body says the 200 meters will also be skipped next year due to tight schedules for athletes in the Tokyo Olympics season.

The four events will still be included at some of the 14 regular meetings, though not the Sept. 11 finals at Zurich.

It's part of a Diamond League revamp to include the most popular events — topped by the 100 meters, long jump and high jump — and fewer long-distance races in a shorter, 90-minute broadcast package.

IAAF President Sebastian Coe says the aim is "a faster-paced, more exciting global league ... that broadcasters want to show and fans want to watch."

Athletes in discus, triple jump and steeplechase will have more chances to earn prize money in a new Continental Tour of second-tier meetings. □



In this file photo taken on Sept. 5, 2012, Italy's Martina Caironi wins at Women's 100m T42 Final at the 2012 Paralympics in London.

Associated Press

Paralympic champion Caironi tests positive for steroid

ROME (AP) — Two-time Paralympic gold medalist Martina Caironi was provisionally suspended Wednesday after testing positive for a steroid.

Italy's anti-doping agency says Caironi failed an out-of-competition test on Oct. 17 in Bologna.

The 30-year-old Caironi won the T42 100 meters at both the 2012 London Games and 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games. She also won a silver medal in the T42 long jump in Rio — where she was Italy's flag-bearer.

Caironi had her left leg amputated following a motorcycle accident in 2007.

Nado Italia, the anti-dop-

ing agency, says Caironi tested positive for the steroid Clostebol.

Caironi said the banned substance was contained in a cream she used to treat an ulcer on the stump of her amputated leg. She said she used it in small doses initially, then eventually declared it as a Therapeutic Use Exemption.

Caironi had been preparing to compete in the world para athletics championships in Dubai beginning Thursday.

"Now I find myself having to miss a worlds in a key year and still without having found a definitive cure for my ulcer," Caironi said in a statement. □



In this Feb. 28, 2017, file photo, Travis Tygart, the chief executive officer of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

Russia, U.S. go toe-to-toe at anti-doping meeting

By EDDIE PELLS

AP National Writer

KATOWICE, Poland (AP) — The fight was about doping.

The United States delivered haymakers. Russia came back with jabs.

The proverbial blows were delivered Wednesday in a vast conference room in Poland during a pair of 3-minute speeches that cut through the tedium of an otherwise sleepy rule-making forum held by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Those speeches — one from Travis Tygart of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, the other from Russian sports minister Pavel Kolobkov — illustrated the wide gap in perceptions about what, exactly, has transpired over the past five years in the wake of a government-backed doping scheme in Russia that has upended

the Olympic world and, most recently, imperiled the country's eligibility for next year's games.

"We cannot allow one country's proven state-sponsored doping system to steal medals and glory from clean athletes," Tygart said. "The Tokyo Games will be at least the fifth Olympic Games where state doping, and not clean athletes, are the issue."

Not far from Tygart sat Kolobkov, whose turn at

the microphone came about a half-hour later and was filled with familiar Russian talking points.

"Now, there has become a vital need for a new generation of athletes," Kolobkov said, reminding the audience "that sport is out of politics, that sport unites."

Russia, with occasional encouragement from WADA and the International Olympic Committee, has often portrayed the push for harsh sanctions as being driven by political interests in the West. Tygart and many of his Western counterparts have turned to the evidence from a pair of WADA-backed investigations — one in 2015 and one in 2016 — that uncovered a state-sponsored doping system designed to win medals at the Sochi Olympics and other major events.

WADA has struggled to bring the country back in line. It agreed to reinstate a reconfigured Russian anti-doping agency in exchange for data from the Moscow testing laboratory that would be used to corroborate cases stemming from the scandal.

But earlier this year, proof emerged that the data has been tampered with, leading to a new investigation, the results of which should be revealed later this

month. The Russian imbroglio is not a major agenda item this week, but there was no pretending the issue — the corruption as well as the way WADA and the IOC have handled it — hasn't been front and center at this conference.

"We must have a strong, independent WADA — not a weak service provider some have enjoyed over the last several years," Tygart said, as WADA President Craig Reedie and many of the agency's executives looked on.

America's newly appointed White House anti-doping representative, Kendel Ehrlich, piled on in her own speech later, saying the Russia scandal has dragged on far too long.

"We recognize the need for process, but also recognize the need for swift action to preserve the reputation of WADA," she said.

Also speaking: the Russian anti-doping agency's new CEO, Yuri Ganus.

Ganus has been critical of his own country in his quest to make sure his agency isn't penalized for the acts of others. His main argument is that the misdeeds in Russia were committed under previous management. He called for WADA to take a "wise and differentiated approach in deciding on this issue." □

Digital wallets like Apple Cash can't help if you're scammed

By SOPHIA ROSENBAUM

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — My desperation to see Ariana Grande in concert created the perfect trap.

Instead of seeing her sing about love and loss, I got sucked into an online ticket scheme that cost me \$75 and a big chunk of my pride.

Con artists often get away with scams like these because digital payment services such as Venmo and Apple Cash don't protect consumers the same way credit cards do. As a rule of thumb, the newer the service, the more likely con artists will target it.

"The regulations haven't caught up with these technology capabilities," said Krista Tedder, head of fraud management at the advisory firm Javelin Strategy & Research.

With credit cards, a federal law caps your liability at \$50, and most companies go further with zero-liability policies. Debit cards typically offer similar protections if you report the fraud immediately. In addition, banks go through a series of verifications before letting someone open an account. But digital payment services work more like cash.

When fraud occurs, it's as though someone took off with your \$20 bill.

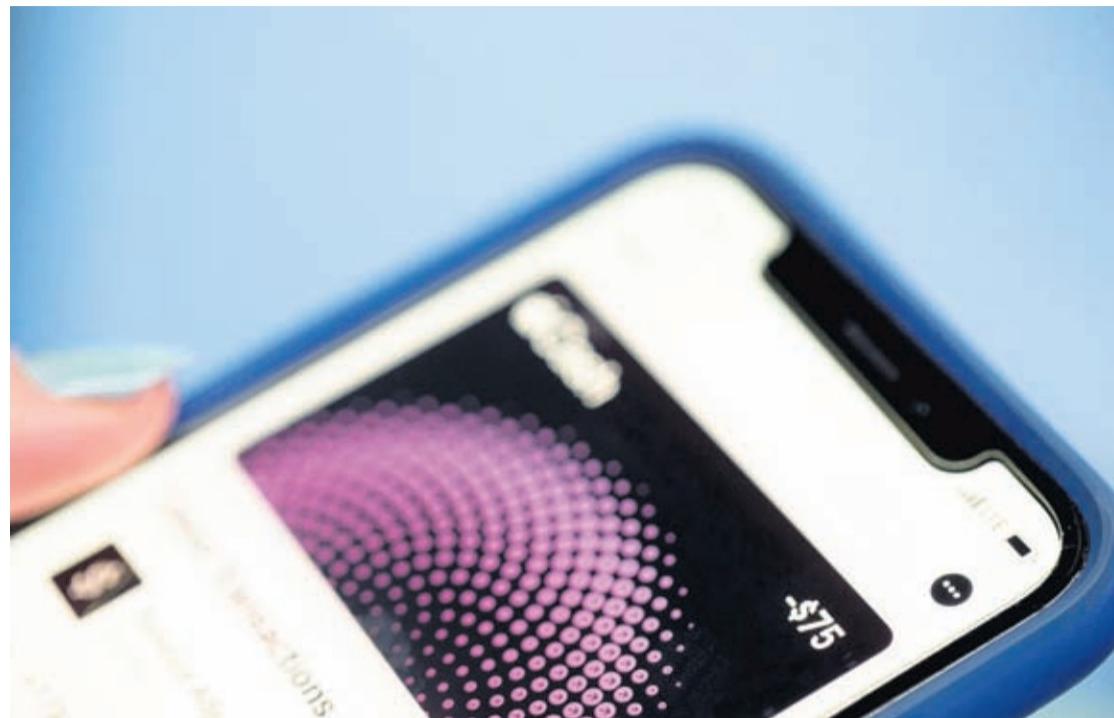
Because such services aren't bound by the same regulations as credit and debit cards, it's up to individual companies to offer protections themselves.

Experts say Western Union, which has been offering money transfers long before smartphones, devotes a team to monitoring and validating transactions. Tedder said Western Union would even call a customer if something looks suspicious.

"They really treat every transaction as a potential risk," Tedder said.

A more recent service, PayPal, offers reimbursements when merchants ship damaged or counterfeit items, but digital money transfers aren't covered.

The newest ones, including



This Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019, photo shows the Apple Pay app on an iPhone in New York.

Associated Press

Apple Cash, are still figuring out how to deal with fraud, experts say. Others, like Facebook's proposed Libra currency, are on the horizon. "These payment systems should carry a big red flag that says you're not protected," said Avivah Litan, a senior analyst at Gartner. "I never use them because I know of all the perils."

Western Union and PayPal, which also owns Venmo, declined comment on their fraud-protection policies.

Apple also declined to comment, but offers online tips that warn, "If you're not sure about their identity, don't send the payment."

To be fair, my phone warned me to use Apple Cash only with people I knew, but I ignored that in my desperation to get the tickets. I wrongly assumed that because Apple Cash was drawing money from my debit card account, I'd be protected if anything went wrong.

As I looked for tickets online for Grande's sold-out show in September, some of the people I spoke to clearly were scammers: They wouldn't send pictures of their tickets. Their social media account seemed too new to be real.

But one person had a plausible story about just wanting to get some money back for a show he couldn't attend. We talked twice through a Facebook Mes-

senger call, which I found comforting, though my partner later pointed out it was a false sense of security.

The biggest red flag I ignored was the scammer's insistence on using Apple Cash, a payment method I was unfamiliar with. Launched in 2017, Apple Cash lets iPhone users send money to each other through Apple's Messages app. Money you send comes out of your bank account. Money you get can be spent at merchants that take Apple Pay or moved back to a bank account. Five minutes after I sent \$75 through Apple Cash, the scammer's Facebook account disappeared, and so did all my ways of contacting him.

Since then, I've felt guilty and embarrassed that I fell for it, angry that companies aren't protecting me and sad that I didn't get to go to the concert.

"A lot of people have this happen to them and blame themselves, and it's not their fault," Tedder said. It's not clear how widespread these scams are. The Department of Justice found only 15% of all fraud victims report it to law enforcement. The FBI says while it's unclear why so few people report fraud, many of the complaints they do receive show victims were embarrassed or worried their family would

be devastated.

Tedder said that if more people reported these scams, it could better inform government agencies tasked with tracking, and in turn, creating solutions and policies for these types of crimes.

Experts also say consumers are typically unaware what is and isn't protected. Litan said she believes the government should do more to educate people.

There are some hopeful

developments. Apple has partnered with Goldman Sachs for an Apple-branded credit card, which some experts say may put pressure on Apple to get more serious about protecting its consumers on other services like Apple Cash.

But even newer services — and newer targets for scammers — are coming. Facebook is working on a digital currency called Libra, which the company says will allow for easier buying and selling across the internet. Facebook says when people spend libras through Facebook's own wallet, Calibra, their identities will be verified to help guard against fraud. But well before the currency's launch, scammers are already trying to sell fake libras.

In the words of Ariana Grande, I have "learned from the pain." Fortunately, I'll be able to see her sing that very line next week in New York, as she added more concert dates after I was scammed. I bought two tickets through Ticketmaster. Though fees get expensive, I now realize I'm paying for peace of mind. □

California discloses probe on Facebook privacy practices

By TALI ARBEL

AP Technology Writer

California attorney general says he has been investigating Facebook's privacy practices since 2018.

Attorney General Xavier Becerra offered few details about the probe and said he was disclosing it only because his office was making a public court filing to force Facebook to answer subpoenas.

According to the filing, Facebook took a year to fully respond to an initial subpoena in June 2018 related to the Cambridge Analytica scandal. The attorney general then asked for more information, including communications among executives related to developers' access to user data and privacy-related news stories.

Facebook "broadly refuses to answer the interrogatories or comply with the subpoena," the filing said, adding that the company has refused to search the emails of top executives Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg in response to the second subpoena.

Facebook didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The investigation is into Facebook's practices related to privacy, disclosures and third-party access to user data. The state is looking into whether Facebook violated California law by deceiving users and misrepresenting privacy practices. Officials say the probe began in early 2018 as a response to the Cambridge Analytica scandal but has expanded. □

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Stock indexes hit pause, hold close to record levels

By STAN CHOE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock indexes held close to their record heights in Wednesday afternoon trading as strong gains for health care companies helped make up for sharp drops in energy stocks.

The market took a quick turn lower in the middle of the day after a report from Reuters said the United States and China may delay signing "phase one" of their trade deal until December, but the drop didn't last long.

The S&P 500 was slightly higher for the day when the report was released and quickly sank 0.3%, but it erased the loss within about two hours.

The U.S.-China trade war has been a top concern for investors since early 2018, and momentum has recently been tilting toward at least a partial agreement. That, combined with encouraging reports on the economy and corporate profits, have recently propelled U.S. indexes past their prior peaks from July to all-time highs.

While acknowledging that trade talks could easily falter again, Jeff Mills, chief investment officer at Bryn Mawr Trust, said both sides have an incentive to come to a deal. China's economic growth has slowed under the weight of increased U.S. tariffs. President Donald Trump's chances of re-election, meanwhile, likely



In this Oct. 30, 2019, file photo trader Sal Suarino works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

hinge in large part on the economy, and a worsening trade war would only sour it.

Mills is optimistic the economy will show more life after the Federal Reserve cut interest rates three times this year, if trade tensions continue to ratchet lower. It would be a sharp turnaround from just a few months ago, when worries were spiking that Trump's trade war and four interest-rate increases by the Federal Reserve in 2018 could tip the economy into a recession.

"People know this intellectually but tend not to focus on it: Changes in interest rates impact the economy with a significant lag," Mills said. "What we've been seeing the last year or so

is the economy absorbing the rise in interest rates that we experienced in 2018."

Early next year, the economy should start to get a boost from the Fed's three rate cuts since the summer, "and I would expect the market to see the recession narrative as overblown," he said.

"Trade is a key issue but it's difficult to gain an edge because no deal has been signed," said Tom Hainlin, national investment strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "It's proving to be challenging for investors."

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 was virtually flat, resting only a couple points below its record, as of 2:15 p.m. Eastern time.

The Dow Jones Industrial

Average was close to flat at 27,492, and the Nasdaq composite was down 0.3%.

HEALTHY RETURNS: Health care stocks climbed to the strongest gains, up 0.6% for the biggest gain among the 11 sectors that make up the S&P 500.

CVS Health helped lead the way with a 4.9% gain after it reported a stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected and raised its forecast for the year. Humana jumped 4% after it also turned in a better-than-expected earnings report.

Stocks across the S&P 500 have been reporting better earnings for the latest quarter than Wall Street expected. In most cases, that meant smaller losses than analysts had forecast.

With only 20% of its companies still waiting to report, the S&P 500 index is on track to report a drop of 2.6% in earnings from a year earlier, according to FactSet. That's not as bad as the 4% decline that analysts initially estimated.

PAIN AT THE PUMP: Energy stocks sank to the market's worst losses, down 2.1% after the price of benchmark U.S. crude slumped 1.5%. Exxon Mobil lost 2.2%, and oilfield services provider Schlumberger fell 3.1%. Occidental Petroleum tumbled 5.1%.

TECH TANGO: HP surged 9.4% for one of the biggest gains in the S&P 500 after The Wall Street Journal reported Xerox Holdings is targeting it for a buyout. Xerox has been struggling as consumers increasingly use digital documents instead of paper.

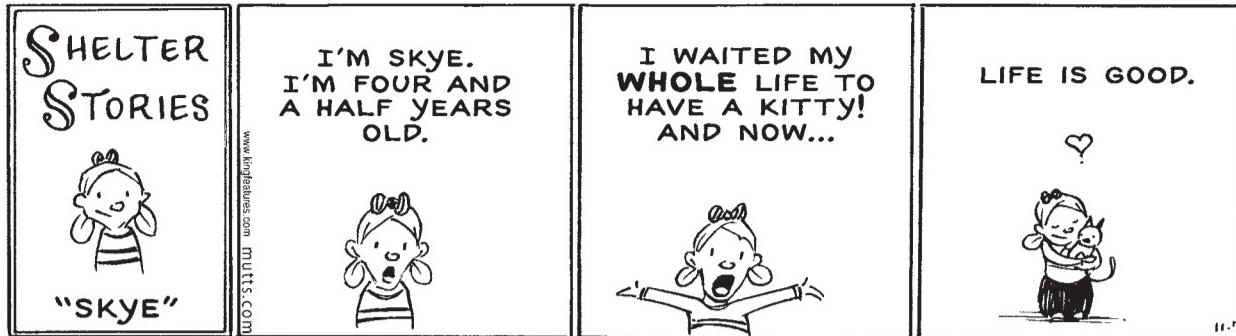
YIELDS: Treasury yields dipped, putting at least a temporary halt to the strong gains they've made this month. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 1.80% from 1.86% late Tuesday.

DEFENSE WINS: The drop in Treasurys yields made the big dividends paid by utility and real-estate stocks more attractive. These stocks are often called "defensive" investments on Wall Street because they tend to hold up better than the rest of the market when the economy is stumbling. They've also been at the head of the market for months. □

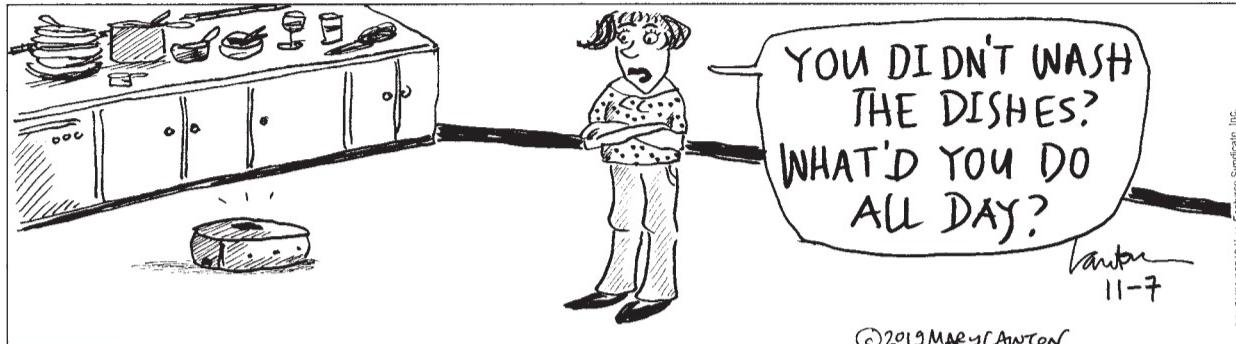
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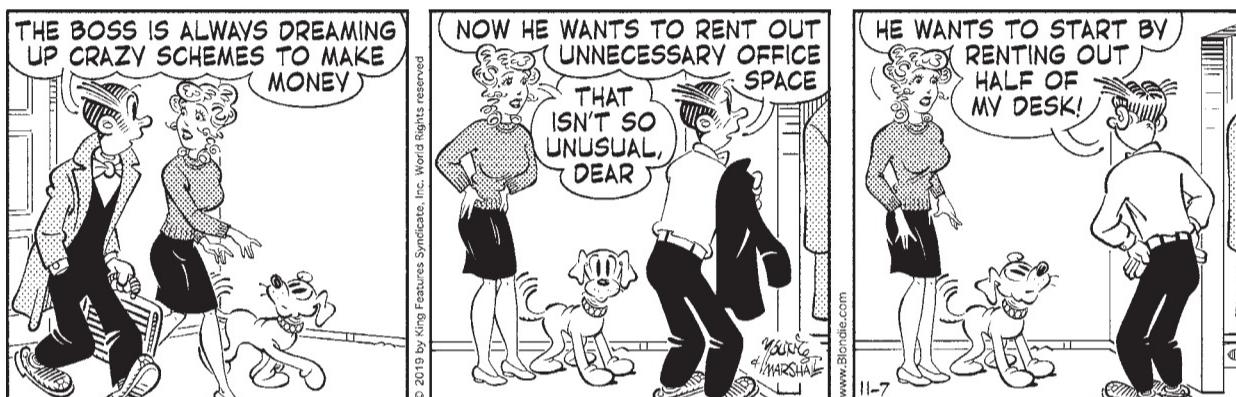
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



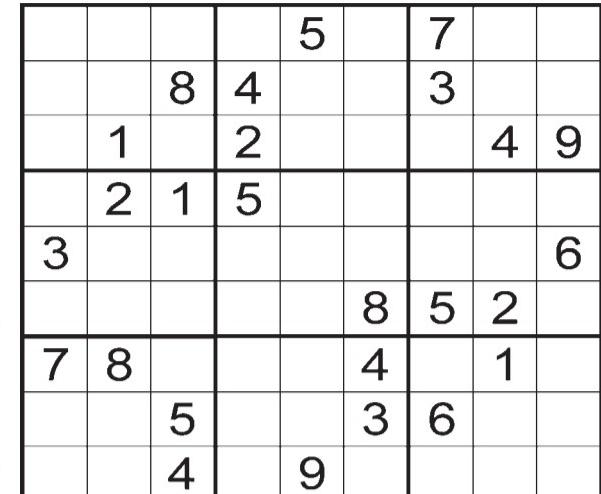
Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★★★★

11/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer
4 6 1 2 5 8 7 3 9
7 8 3 1 9 6 4 5 2
2 9 5 3 7 4 6 8 1
9 3 7 5 1 2 8 4 6
5 4 6 8 3 9 1 2 7
1 2 8 6 4 7 5 9 3
3 5 4 9 6 1 2 7 8
8 1 9 7 2 5 3 6 4
6 7 2 4 8 3 9 1 5

0SS

ACROSS
1 As __ as molasses
5 Sound of a sneeze
10 Range viewed from Salzburg
14 Easy pace
15 \$1000
16 Lawn mower brand
17 Like petits fours & éclairs
18 Lawn game
20 __ favor; polite Spaniard's phrase
21 Unpleasantly moist
22 Musical speed
23 Got up
25 Jon __ Jovi
26 Inventor's paper
28 Moans and __
31 Otherwise known as
32 Parable's lesson
34 "Cat __ Hot Tin Roof"
36 Clippety-

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathew

11/7/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- Across:
SWAT, STAN, EGGS, NICER, TAPE, SLOP, UNCLE, ENRAPTURE, GEE, LOW, ROAMED, PHILS, NUT, MOTIVE, SERENE, IRATE, CRASS, ELF, NABS, CLAWS, STAR, ILL, SOAPS, COTTA, SEPTUM, GALLEY, RAN, DAFOE, ETHICS, APT, SAT, CHECKERED, ADORE, HALE, LEAD, NAMED, OILY, SPRY, YEAS.
- Down:
SWAT, STAN, EGGS, NICER, TAPE, SLOP, UNCLE, ENRAPTURE, GEE, LOW, ROAMED, PHILS, NUT, MOTIVE, SERENE, IRATE, CRASS, ELF, NABS, CLAWS, STAR, ILL, SOAPS, COTTA, SEPTUM, GALLEY, RAN, DAFOE, ETHICS, APT, SAT, CHECKERED, ADORE, HALE, LEAD, NAMED, OILY, SPRY, YEAS.

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ingredients	28 Elephant's color	38 Insulting remark	50 Created
62 Waterbirds	29 Obvious	40 reef; atoll	52 "I _____ Pretty": "West Side Story"
63 Hit hard	30 Simple plumbing tool	41 Rainbows	song
DOWN		43 Embrace	
1 Lose one's footing	32 Comedian Sahl	44 Hustle and —	53 Torn in two
2 Crazy	33 On one's ___, independent	46 Paths	55 Encycl. volume, perhaps
3 Surgeries	35 Middle ___, historical period	47 Refer to	
4 Took a mate	37 Accepted	48 'The Beaver State': abbr.	56 ___ for; strive to win
5 Horrified	standard	49 Beast	57 Bell's monogram

Congress approves bill expanding animal cruelty law

By MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress has passed a bill making certain types of animal cruelty a federal felony. The bill would expand a 2010 law that made creation or distribution of "animal crushing" videos illegal. The new bill would make the underlying acts of cruelty a federal crime. The Senate unanimously passed the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act on Tuesday, two weeks af-

ter the House passed it on a voice vote. Florida Reps. Ted Deutch and Vern Buchanan sponsored the bill. Deutch, a Democrat, said it "sends a clear message that our society does not accept cruelty against animals" and noted that the bill received overwhelming support from both parties. Buchanan, a Republican, said "The torture of innocent animals is abhorrent and should be punished to the fullest extent of the law." □

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Week 31 Unit 2307 - \$3,500
Week 33 Unit 2535 - \$8,000
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Week 35 Unit 2326 - \$2,000
Week 35 Unit 2120 - \$3,500
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Week 50 Unit 2510 - \$4,500

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Week 30 Unit 227A - \$3,500
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Week 34 Unit 138A - \$2,250
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Zimbabwe's severe drought killing elephants, other wildlife

By FARAI MUTSAKA

Associated Press

MANA POOLS, Zimbabwe

(AP) — Weak from hunger and thirst, the elephant struggled to reach a pool of water in this African wildlife reserve. But the majestic mammal got stuck in the mud surrounding the sun-baked watering hole, which had dramatically shrunk due to a severe drought.

Eventually park staff freed the trapped elephant, but it collapsed and died. Just yards (meters) away lay the carcass of a Cape buffalo that had also been pulled from the mud, but was attacked by hungry lions.

Elephants, zebras, hippos, impalas, buffaloes and many other wildlife are stressed by lack of food and water in Zimbabwe's Mana Pools National Park, whose very name comes from the four pools of water normally filled by the flooding Zambezi River each rainy season, and where wildlife traditionally drink. The word "mana" means four in the Shona language.

At least 105 elephants have died in Zimbabwe's wildlife reserves, most of them in Mana and the larger Hwange National Park in the past two months, according to the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. Many desperate animals are straying from Zimbabwe's parks into nearby communities in search of food and water.

Mana Pools, a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its splendid setting along the Zambezi River, annually experiences hot, dry weather at this time of year. But this year it's far worse as a result of poor rains last year. Even the river's flow has reduced.



In this Oct. 27, 2019, photo, the carcass of a buffalo lies on the edges of a sun baked pool that used to be a perennial water supply in Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe.

The drought parching southern Africa is also affecting people. An estimated 11 million people are threatened with hunger in nine countries in the region, according to the World Food Program, which is planning large-scale food distribution. The countries of southern Africa have experienced normal rainfall in only one of the past five growing seasons, it said. Seasonal rains are expected soon, but parks officials and wildlife lovers, fearing that too many animals will die before then, are bringing in food to help the distressed animals. The extremely harsh conditions persuaded park authorities to abandon their usual policy of not intervening. Each morning, Munyaradzi Dzoro, a parks agency wildlife officer, prays for rain. "It's beginning to be serious," he said, standing next to the remains of the elephant and buffalo. "It might be worse if we fail to receive rains" by early No-

ember. The last substantial rains came in April, he said. An early end to a "very poor rainy season" has resulted in insufficient natural vegetation to see the animals through, said Mel Hood, who is participating in the Feed Mana project, which is providing supplementary feeding. Most of the animals in Mana Pools "are more or less confined to the barren flood plains," where temperatures soar to 113 degrees Fahrenheit (45 degrees Celsius), she said. Separated from neighboring Zambia by the Zambezi, the region's once reliable sources of water have turned into death traps for animals desperate to reach the muddy ponds. Like the elephant and buffalo, many other animals in the park have gotten stuck in the clay while trying to reach Long Pool, the largest of the watering holes at 3 miles (5 kilometers) long. The animals were pulled out by rangers, but they could not survive predators on the pounce for weak prey.

"The carnivores attacked it from behind," Dzoro said of the buffalo. The elephant carcass had been there for almost a week and emitted a strong stench as flies feasted on it.

At just 5% of its normal size, Long Pool is one of the few

to maintain population sizes," Dzoro said.

With the acacias, other indigenous trees and grasses that provide the bulk of food for herbivores like elephants and buffaloes also decimated by the drought, authorities began supplementary feeding in July.

Trucks and tractors ferry hay to various locations in the 2,196-square-kilometer (848-square-mile) park. In some spots, elephants, buffaloes and zebras are fed next to each other. The Feed Mana project has so far trucked 14,000 bales to the park, said Hood, the animal welfare campaigner.

The group has been appealing for "urgent" donations of items such as soy bean hay, grass and cubes made of nutritious grains and molasses.

"Although it may not be enough to stave off all the hunger pangs, it is certainly giving these animals a chance to survive until conditions improve," Hood said.

Zimbabwe has an estimated 85,000 elephants and neighboring Botswana has more than 130,000. The two countries have the largest elephant population in the world. Zimbabwe says it's struggling to cope with booming numbers of wild elephants and is pushing to be allowed to sell its ivory stockpile and export live elephants to raise money for conservation and ease congestion in the drought-affected parks.

Other African countries, especially Kenya, are opposed to any sale of ivory. And earlier this year the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species voted to continue the ban on all ivory sales.

At Mana Pools, saving the animals is a challenge and officials say Zimbabwe is severely affected by climate change that has changed weather patterns.

In past years, Mana Pools would get up to 24 inches (600 millimeters) of rain per year, said Dzoro, the wildlife officer. Now it's lucky to get half that. □

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ABC says interview with Epstein accuser wasn't ready to air

By DAVID BAUDER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC News faced questions Tuesday about its reluctance to air a sensitive story of alleged sexual misconduct after a leaked video emerged of reporter Amy Robach complaining about how her bosses handled an interview with a Jeffrey Epstein accuser. The conservative web site Project Veritas released video of Robach venting that "every day I get more and more pissed" that her 2015 interview with Virginia Giuffre never made the air. Robach made her remarks late in August while sitting in a Times Square studio with a microphone but not on the air.

ABC said Tuesday that the interview didn't meet its standards because it lacked sufficient corroborating evidence. Robach, co-anchor of ABC's "20/20" newsmagazine, said the leaked video caught her "in a private moment of frustration."

The episode was reminiscent of Ronan Farrow's accusations that NBC News discouraged his reporting on Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's misconduct. Farrow then took his Pulitzer Prize-winning story to the New Yorker magazine.

ABC sought to minimize the



This March 14, 2019 file photo shows ABC News' Amy Robach at the 2019 ADAPT Leadership Awards in New York.

comparison, saying it has pursued and aired other stories about Epstein, the New York financier who died Aug. 10 while in police custody on sex trafficking charges.

Project Veritas is known for its efforts embarrass mainstream media outlets, often sending undercover reporters to catch employees making statements that display an anti-conservative bent. But it needed no such help with the Robach video, which Project Veritas

said came from an "ABC insider" it would not identify. The correspondent was visibly exasperated as she complained that "I tried for three years to get (the interview) on to no avail and now it's coming out and it's like these 'new revelations' and I freaking had all of it." Giuffre, whose maiden name is Roberts, alleged that as a teen, she was forced by Epstein to have sex with prominent men, including Prince Andrew. The prince and Epstein both

Associated Press

denied the charges. In the video, Robach said she was told "who's Jeffrey Epstein? No one knows who that is. This is a stupid story."

Robach also complained in the video that lawyer Alan Dershowitz and the British Royal Palace applied pressure to ABC not to air the interview with Giuffre. She suggested that the network feared that airing the interview would hurt its ability to get interviews with Prince William and Kate Middle-

ton. ABC denied that outside pressure had anything to do with its decision.

"At the time, not all of our reporting met our standards to air, but we have never stopped investigating the story," ABC News said in a statement Tuesday.

Giuffre first outlined her allegations against Epstein anonymously in a lawsuit filed in 2009, and she did her first on-the-record interviews about them with the Daily Mail in 2011. At the time of ABC's interview, Giuffre's lawyers were battling with Dershowitz, who was fighting back against her claim that he was among the men who had sex with her when she was a minor. While her allegations received widespread attention, some news organizations have treated elements of her story with caution because the list of prominent men she accused was long and her allegations difficult to independently confirm.

The Associated Press doesn't generally identify people who say they're victims of sex assault, unless they come forward publicly as Giuffre has done.

Robach said in her statement Tuesday that she had been referring in the video to what Giuffre had said in the interview, not what ABC □

Billie Eilish, Lizzo, Dua Lipa, Cabello to perform at AMAs

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) —

The two biggest breakthrough acts in music this year, Billie Eilish and Lizzo, will perform at the 2019 American Music Awards later this month.

Dick Clark Productions announced Wednesday that other performers at the Nov. 24 event include Camila Cabello, nominated for collaboration of the year for "Senorita" with Shawn Mendes, and Dua Lipa, whose debut album is the most streamed album by a female artist in Spotify history.

The show will air live on ABC from the Microsoft Theater



This combination photo shows Lizzo performing at The Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles on Oct. 18, 2019, left, and Billie Eilish performing at the Coachella Music & Arts Festival in Indio, Calif., on April 20, 2019.

in Los Angeles.

Eilish is competing for six

favorite pop/rock album. Her debut — "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" — is one of the top-selling albums of the year. It launched multiple Top 40 hits including "Bad Guy," which reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. Lizzo, nominated for three AMAs, released her debut in 2013 but she achieved major success this year. Her two-year-old song "Truth Hurts" topped the Hot 100 chart for seven weeks and her three-year-old song "Good As Hell" just reached the Top 10 on the pop charts and is No. 1 on the R&B charts. Lizzo released her major-label debut album, "Cuz I Love You," earlier this year. Previously announced AMA performers include Selena Gomez, whose new song "Lose You to Love Me" hit No. 1 on the Hot 100 chart this week, and Taylor Swift, who is nominated for five honors and will receive the artist of the decade award at the show.

Throughout her career, Swift has won 23 AMAs and she could break Michael Jackson's record for most wins (the King of Pop won 24 trophies). Taylor Swift will compete for the ultimate top prize — artist of the year — along with Post Malone, Ariana Grande, Drake and Halsey. □

Associated Press

AMAs, including favorite female pop/rock artist and

'Midway' turns the WW II battle into a cartoon

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

The first thing director Roland Emmerich should do after his latest movie "Midway" hits theaters is apologize.

Apologize to the visual effects crew, the stuntmen, the carpenters, the costumers and artists. He has squandered their considerable visual skill in retelling the crucial World War II battle at Midway by meld-

ing some of the best action sequences in years with the most banal of words.

What's the point of scouring 1941 Navy regulations to ground the real-life characters in authentic military gear if they say stuff like this: "I guess every battle needs a miracle."

What's the point of locating the original blueprints of a gun, and then carefully recreating it, if the script calls for an airman to tell his



This image released by Lionsgate shows Nick Jonas in a scene from "Midway."

Associated Press

pilot: "You fly like you don't care if we come home."

Emmerich has turned "Midway" into another of his films, "Independence Day," which was cartoony but worked because we knew it was over the top. Here, the director has taken real, living men who acted heroically and turned them into pulp comic strip characters. He might need to apologize to them the most.

Screenwriter Wes Tooke has apparently never seen a cliche he didn't want to embrace. His script is as textured and nuanced as an upbeat newsreel from the '40s. No, there's no young G.I. nicknamed Brooklyn, but there are hotshot flyboys who stick their chew-

ing gum next to a photo of their wives in the cockpit during dogfights.

Tooke's one-dimensional characters help the plot along by stating only the very obvious, like "If we lose, we lose the Pacific" and "This place is a powder keg." (Keep that last one in mind; stuff will blow up and it will be called foreshadowing.)

The Battle of Midway took place between June 4-7, 1942, and pitted Japanese Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, architect of the raid on Pearl Harbor, against U.S. Navy Adm. Chester Nimitz. The U.S. had been stung by the sneak attack in Hawaii and were underdogs in the Pacific.

But the U.S. Navy, having

cracked Japan's code system, anticipated Japanese naval movements and gained the upper hand. The battle ended Japan's aspirations of naval dominance in the Pacific and showed the Allies that victory was possible.

In the actual battle theater are the brave, bad-boy bomber pilot Dick Best (Ed Skrein), the brave but more cautious Clarence Dickinson (Luke Kleintank), the downhome brave Admiral William "Bull" Halsey (Dennis Quaid), the swaggeringly brave Jimmy Doolittle (Aaron Eckhart) and the brave and cocksure Bruno Gaido (a mustachioed Nick Jonas, reaching the very limits of his acting skills).

You can instantly tell why these actors signed up. Jonas gets to shoot an anti-aircraft artillery gun at a plunging Japanese Zero and prove his courage. "That was the bravest damn thing I've ever seen. What's your name, son?" an awed officer says. Skrein, as Best, gets to be a daredevil pilot who is admired by everyone. "Men like Dick Best are the reason we're gonna win this war," says one awed pilot. Eckhart gets to strut about in a leather flying jacket and look awesome. □

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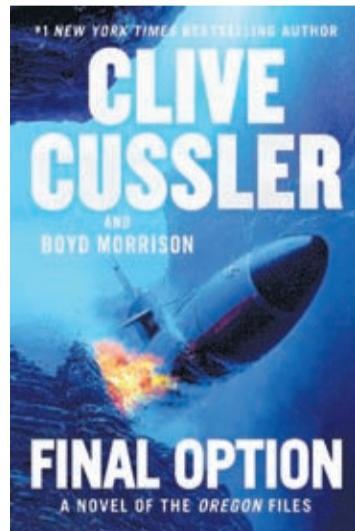
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ALSO SHOWING:

Is this the end for Juan Cabrillo and his team?



This cover image released by Putnam shows "Final Option" by Clive Cussler and Boyd Morrison.

Associated Press

By JEFF AYERS

Associated Press

"Final Option," Putnam, by Clive Cussler and Boyd Morrison

Readers of this ongoing "Oregon Files" series will recognize the standard opening of a Clive Cussler novel, but it quickly takes a huge turn and becomes an all-out nonstop action thriller. It seems like a typical assignment to rescue three American spies in Brazil, but Juan Cabrillo and the crew of the Oregon have cruised into a deadly trap. A ghost has been resurrected, and now he's after Cabrillo. He knows about all about the Oregon and commands a vessel that is virtually identical.

He has a team with similar talents, and the only thing in the way of this ghost's plan for domination is Cabrillo being alive. That soon will change.

Once Cabrillo learns about

the existence of a man he thought was dead and the weapons at his fingertips, he knows the ensuing cat-and-mouse game will be the most difficult battle he's ever encountered. Especially since his enemy always seems to be one step ahead of him.

Boyd Morrison has taken this Clive Cussler series to new heights, and "Final Option" is the best one yet.

The story hits the gas pedal and never taps the brakes. Having an enemy that is essentially a mirror image of the hero adds extra suspense and mayhem. The characters truly seem in jeopardy, and nothing will ever be the same. Cussler and Morrison have written another guaranteed bestseller. □

Acclaimed novelist Ernest Gaines dies at 86

By CHEVEL JOHNSON
REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Novelist Ernest J. Gaines, whose poor childhood on a small Louisiana plantation germinated stories of black struggles that grew into universal tales of grace and beauty, has died. He was 86.

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation, which sponsors a literary award in Gaines' honor, confirmed he died Tuesday in his sleep of cardiac arrest at his home in Oscar, Louisiana.

"Ernest Gaines was a Louisiana treasure," foundation president and CEO John Davies said in a statement. "He will be remembered for his powerful prose that placed the reader directly into the story of the old South, as only he could describe it. We have lost a giant and a friend."

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said in a statement that Gaines "used his immense vision and literary talents to tell the stories of African Americans in the South. We are all blessed that Ernest left words and stories that will continue to inspire many generations to come."

"A Lesson Before Dying," published in 1993, was an acclaimed classic. Gaines was awarded a "genius grant" that year by the MacArthur Foundation, receiving \$335,000.

Both "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" (1971) and "A Gathering of Old Men" (1984) became honored television movies.

The author of eight books, Gaines was born on a plantation in Pointe Coupee Parish. His first writing experience was writing letters for illiterate workers who asked him to embellish their news to far-off relatives. Bayonne, the setting for Gaines' fiction, was actually New Roads, Louisiana, which Gaines left for California when he was 15.

Although books were denied him throughout his childhood because of Louisiana's strict segregation, which extended even



This April 12, 1977 file photo shows author Ernest Gaines who wrote "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," in his San Francisco home.

to libraries, he found the life surrounding him rich enough to recollect in story after story through exact and vivid detail.

In "A Lesson Before Dying," for example, the central figure is the teacher at the plantation school outside town.

Through the teacher, whose profession Gaines elevates to a calling, the novelist explores the consistent themes of his work: sacrifice and duty, the obligation to others, the qualities of loving, the nature of courage.

Gaines found that using his storytelling gifts meant more than militant civil rights action. "When Bull Connor would sic the dogs, I thought, 'Hell, write a better paragraph.'

"In 1968, when I was writing 'The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman,' my friends said, 'Why write about a 110-year-old lady when all of this is going on now?' And I said, 'I think she's going to have something to say about it.'"

What Gaines' characters said about it achieved a power and timelessness that made him a distinctive voice in American literature. Much of the appeal of his books is their seeming simplicity and straightforward story line. "I can never write big novels," he always maintained. But the questions he explored were the eternal ones great writers confront: what it means to be human, what a human lives and dies for.

Associated Press

A large, gentlemanly man with a certain bohemian air — braces and berets were favorite attire — and a stately manner, Gaines was devoted to friends and family. When he married in 1993 at age 60, he celebrated in Lafayette, New Orleans, Miami, and San Francisco, so the gatherings could include his intimates. Dianne Saulney Gaines is an assistant district attorney for Dade County, Florida. The couple divided their time among various abodes but spent the MacArthur money on a year in France and other travels.

Gaines spent the fall teaching creative writing at the then-University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette) since 1983. It's only about an hour's drive from his childhood home.

He could not write and teach at the same time. He needed five or six hours each day devoted to writing and "I can't write a couple of days and skip two or three days."

"A Lesson Before Dying" took seven years.

"I work five days a week, just like a regular job. I get up in the morning, do a little exercise, eat a little breakfast. I'm at my desk by nine in the morning, work until three with a little break for lunch," he said.

His literary influences were eclectic. Since he got a late start as a reader, he read with a vengeance. □



This cover image released by River House Artists/Columbia Nashville shows "What You See Is What You Get," by Luke Combs.

Associated Press

No sophomore slump for country singer Luke Combs

By KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

Luke Combs, "What You See Is What You Get" (River House Artists/Columbia Nashville)

Not many artists break out on their first record, but Luke Combs did it without much fanfare, dropping an album two years ago that has spent 50 weeks on top of Billboard's country chart and tied the all-time record set by another country sensation, Shania Twain.

Combs has fed his rabid fan base with a deluxe re-release of his debut album and a four-song EP before putting out this sophomore record. As the title track suggests, "What You See Is What You Get," Combs is speaking directly to a working class crowd with an average Joe attitude about his own life, even as he has become country music's next big star.

He has a creative flourish with vowel harmony in "Lovin' On You," stringing together similar sounding words in a syncopated style that's a little like rapping, but slower. "I like a two-door old Ford, wood board back porch, three chords and the truth," with an emphasis on the "or" sound.

He twirls around words in his North Carolina drawl, like "Long neck, ice cold beer never broke my heart," with his larger than life vocals matched with a stomping drum rhythm that sounds unique among so much smoothness of mainstream country melodies.

Combs, at the top of a new class of neo-traditionalists in country music, has clearly learned a lot about writing solid honky tonk boogies from studying the catalog of Brooks & Dunn, who appear as featured guests on his song "1, 2 Many."

But Combs really sounds akin to a top-notch vocalist like Chris Stapleton when he gets pensive, slows it down and lets his fully emotive vocal range take center stage. Two slower standouts on the 17-song set are "Dear Today," a demo-tape reminder to himself to not take his time for granted, and "Even Though I'm Leaving," a classic father-son story song about saying goodbye.

Combs should be less worried about a sophomore slump than making more room for all those platinum plaques. □

George Orwell New Mexico exhibit bares 'doublespeak' legacy

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength.

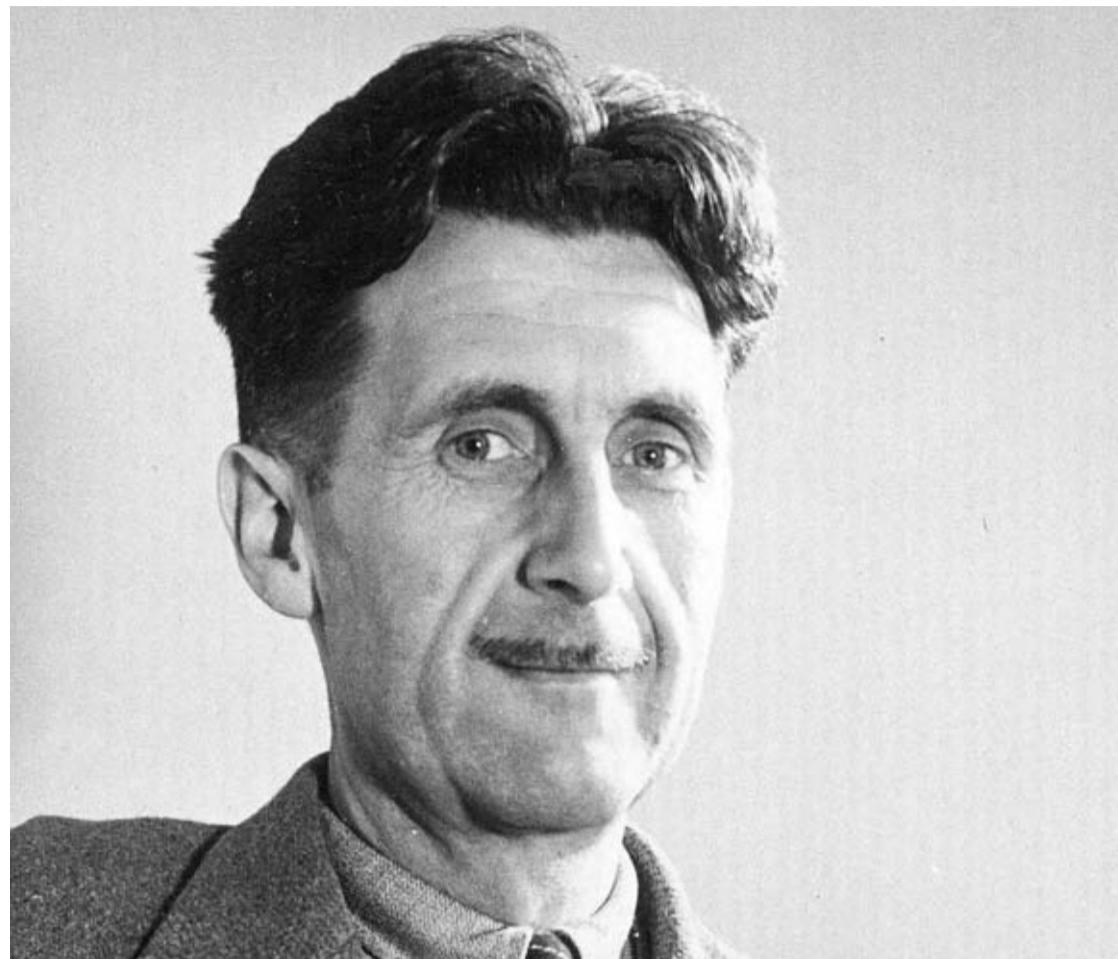
Those were the slogans of the Party in George Orwell's 1949 novel "1984" that allowed the superstate of Oceania to keep its population under control. The Thought Police thwarted dissent. The Ministry of Truth promoted lies. The Ministry of Love tortured lovers.

Those dystopian warnings about the fake becoming the gospel have shaped the minds of generations since they appeared in print more than a half-century ago. And now a new exhibit on Orwell at the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library in Albuquerque, New Mexico seeks to remind people about the author's premonitions amid a new — yet very familiar — era.

"George Orwell: His Enduring Legacy" which runs to April, features posters and material related to "1984" and his 1945 allegorical novella, "Animal Farm." It also contains rare Orwell books in different languages to highlight his reach and evolution as a writer.

The British-born Orwell, who died in 1950, was known for "Animal Farm" and "1984," both of which tackled totalitarianism. Orwell's "1984" has become a best-seller in the U.S. again during the Trump administration.

The exhibit was sparked after a longtime advocate



In this undated file photo, writer George Orwell poses at an unknown location. A George Orwell exhibit in New Mexico is tackling the themes of the novelist's work from "1984" to "Animal Farm."

Associated Press

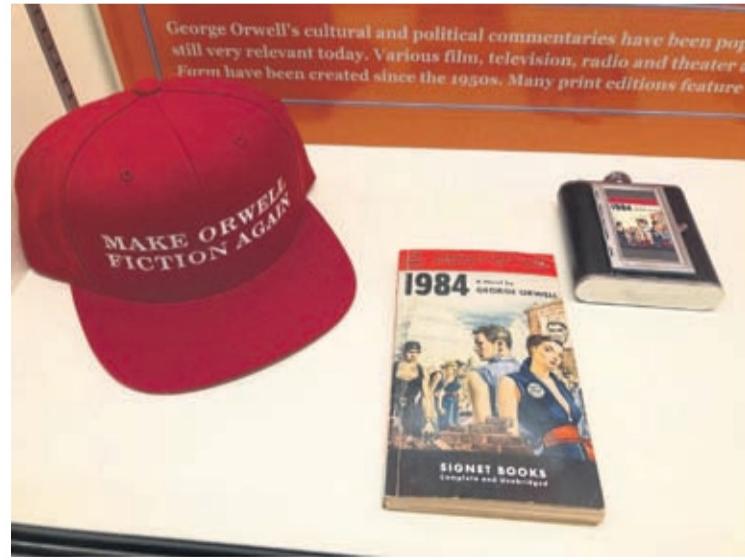
and employee of the University of New Mexico University Libraries donated his collection of rare Orwell books. For years, Russ Davidson, a University of New Mexico professor and curator emeritus, amassed rare Orwell books from around the world.

Those rare works included first editions of "Animal Farm" and "1984" in Icelandic, Ukrainian, Swahili, French, Urdu, German, Hungarian and Spanish. He also obtained first, early and other scarce editions of many of Orwell's other

books, essays, and reportage. Such unique books are on display in the exhibit. Yet, the most captivating aspect of the small but powerful exhibit is the art and objects connected to themes and Orwell's life. Artifacts and posters from the Spanish Civil War are shown to illustrate how the conflict played a role in Orwell's intellectually formation. Orwell fought against a right-wing military coup in Spain but fled after he was shot in the throat and officials sought his arrest.

The campy book cover

art also is seductive, offering commentaries about the eras the editions were produced rather than the work inside. In one edition of "1984," for example, the cover features characters for the Sen. Joseph McCarthy Era 1950s with the words "forbidden love...fear...betrayal." It's almost as if novel was merely a pulp fiction soap opera found at Route 66 gas stations, except it's not. Then, there are the portrayals of Napoleon, the authoritarian pig in Animal Farm. Red posters show Napoleon in military gear of



In this Oct. 23, 2019, photo, a vintage copy of George Orwell's 1949 novel "1984" next to a hat about Orwell is shown at an exhibit in Albuquerque, N.M.

Associated Press



In this Oct. 23, 2019, photo, a piece of art promoting George Orwell's novel "Animal Farm" is shown at an exhibit in Albuquerque, N.M.

Associated Press

communist Eastern Europe. Other images show his celebrating his abundance at the sake of others, since, "all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

Journalists, academics and political observers of every succeeding generation since Orwell's untimely death have argued that Orwell remains relevant in their time. And, yes, the same could be said of today. Orwell's concepts of doublespeak (deliberately euphemistic, ambiguous, or obscure language), newspeak (doublespeak for political propaganda) and thoughtcrimes (thoughts deemed illegal by a mob or a government) continued to be cited in response to current events.

President Donald Trump's practice of blurting falsehoods — like saying, "The Kurds are much safer right now" after Turkey invaded Kurdish strongholds — have been called Orwellian.

The same has been noted for some Democrats. California Gov. Gavin Newsom claimed in August that the "vast majority" of San Francisco's homeless people came from Texas. (A 2019 report found 70 percent had previously lived in the city). Even in New Mexico, the most Hispanic state in the U.S. that sits along the U.S.-Mexico border, Orwellian concepts in practice have emerged.

In 2016, for example, a left-leaning immigrant rights group denounced then-Republican Gov. Susana Martinez and her attempts to revamp a state law that allowed immigrants in the country illegally to obtain driver's licenses. The group called a potential compromise to create a "two-tier" system to issue two types of licenses — one compliant with the federal REAL ID Act — nothing but a "scarlet letter."

After New Mexico Democrats said it would support the compromise and the bill passed, the group changed course and publicly and proudly claimed Martinez lost.

But she won. □